

THE Hongkong Weekly Press AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LVI.]

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Epitome of the Week, &c.	175
Leading Articles:—	
The Public Health and Buildings Ordinance	176
The Treatment of Undesirables in Hongkong	177
The Shanghai Conservancy Question	177
Plague Inoculation	178
The Desert of Lop	178
The Anglo-Chinese Commercial Treaty	179
Hongkong Legislative Council	179
Hongkong Sanitary Board	181
The Health of Hongkong	181
Alleged Murder on the <i>Chingtu</i>	181
The Wellington Street Robbery	181
Ellis Kadoorie Schools	182
Hongkong's Assets and Liabilities	182
Hongkong Observatory and Storm-Warnings	182
Marriage at the Cathedral	185
The Servant Question	185
The Caranograph	185
The Shanghai Tramways Scheme	186
The Bonin Islands Eruption	186
Siamese Affairs	186
Canton	187
Pakhoi	187
Foochow	188
Vladivostock	188
Correspondence	188
Campbell, Moore & Co., Ltd	189
Hongkong Cotton Spinning, Weaving & Dyeing Co., Ltd.	190
Supreme Court	190
Hongkong Water Polo Shield Final	191
Hongkong and Port News	191
Commercial	192
Shipping	192

BIRTHS.

On the 9th August, at "Sunny Side," Kuching, Sarawak, the wife of V. L. NEUBRONNER, of a daughter.

On the 23rd August, at Ramoth, Penang, the wife of J. G. BEKHUIJSEN, of a son.

On the 29th August, at Singapore, the wife of A. T. WILLIAMS, of a son.

On the 30th August, at "Budleigh," Singapore, the wife of GEORGE BRINKWORTH, of a son.

At 10B, Yuen Ming Yuen Road, Shanghai, the wife of WILLIAM HARRIS, 11. B.M. Office of Works, of twins, son and daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 3rd July, at East Blatchington, Sussex, F. A. DE ST. CROIX, of Shanghai, to LUCY ELIZABETH TUCK.

On the 24th August, at the Nederland Hotel, Penang, ANNETTA GRUTZ to ZAIDEL SHEPERIA.

On the 29th August, at St. John's Cathedral, G. S. PALMER, 5th I.H.C., to IDA HOWARTH, youngest daughter of the late H. J. HOLMES, solicitor.

On the 2nd September, at St. John's Cathedral, by the Rev. F. T. Johnson, JOHN JACKSON, son of SIDNEY JACKSON, of Longfield, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan, to ELSIE, daughter of Dr. STOCKWELL DUNWICH, Brisbane.

DEATHS.

On the 26th July, at Edinburgh, L. SOMERVILLE, late of Manila, aged 36 years.

On the 22nd August, at Kobe, J. M. BEAM, citizen of the United States, aged 43 years.

On the 28th August, at the Nursing Home, Shanghai, GUSTAVUS FITZ-ROWLAND, the infant son of R. WILSON R. WADE, aged 2 years and 2 months.

On the 29th August, at Saigon, W. KINDELMANN, Manager of Diethelm and Co.

At Eastbourne, EMILY SUSAN PATERSON, widow of the late WILLIAM PATERSON, of Beech Grove, Sydenham Hill, and of Singapore.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVALS OF MAIIS.

The German mail of the 5th August arrived, per N.D.L. steamer *Prinz Regent Luitpold*, on the 4th September (30 days); and the American mail of the 9th August arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Coptic*, on the 6th September (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

A series of earthquakes has taken place in the Moro country, Philippine Islands, near the American headquarters. Sixty natives are reported to have been killed, but no Americans.

The opinion prevails in Berlin, according to a despatch from that city, that "the Siamese question can be solved without further difficulties, if France will respect the commercial rights of the other Powers."

A telegram to the *N.C. Daily News*, dated Kobe, 28th August, says:—Mr. F. Wilson, a passenger by the N. Y. K. *Saikio Maru* from Shanghai and ports, died on board at 6 a.m. The ship has been quarantined, two of her boys showing symptoms of the disease.

A corporation has been organised in California, with a capital of \$1,000,000 gold, to promote trade with China in consequence of the conclusion of the Tariff Treaty. It is also reported that arrangements are proceeding to induce China to buy American cotton through the New York exchange instead of through Liverpool.

Our correspondent at Singapore telegraphed under date 2nd September, 1.30 p.m.:—The severe drought here continues. The situation is serious as only one week's supply is left. The supply to the town is now limited to two hours per day. It is suggested that a trial should be given to the firing of big guns in the air as a means of bringing rain.

H.E. Tao Mu, Viceroy of the Kwang provinces, received at Canton on the 1st inst. with special honours Mr. John Barrett, Commissioner-General of the St. Louis Exposition, who was presented to him by Mr. R. M. McWade, U.S. Consul at Canton. The audience was followed by a large tiffin of the leading Canton officials at the Prefect's yamen. H.E. Tak Sow, Acting Viceroy, when returning at the U.S. Consulate the visit of Mr. John Barrett, assured the Commissioner and the U.S. Consul, Mr. R. M. McWade, that, for the benefit of foreign commerce and the promotion of friendly relations with America, the Viceroy would issue a proclamation that the two Kwang provinces must participate in the St. Louis World's Exposition on an unprecedented scale. Mr. Barrett returned to Hongkong on Thursday.

American capitalists are planning to establish banks in the business centres of China.

Owing to the heavy rains causing the rivers to overflow their banks several hundreds of lives have been lost in Nepaul, while great damage has been done to property.

A Berlin telegram to the *Ostasiatische Lloyd* says:—The report of Laffan's Bureau, according to which the Netherlands intend to join the Triple Alliance and are willing to sell the Riouw Islands, opposite Singapore, to Germany, is here declared to be absolutely false.

We are able to state, on absolutely reliable authority, that the Welsh Regiment now in garrison here will be relieved about the middle of October by the 1st Battalion Sherwood Foresters, the old 45th Regiment, better known as the Derbyshires. The relieving battalion has seen service in South Africa, and brings to Hongkong a splendid fighting record, there being on the colours of the regiment to which it belongs no less than twenty-four engagements, exclusive of those fought in the South African War. Their uniform is scarlet, with white facings, and their badge the united red and white rose. The commanding officer is Lieut.-Col. Wally, C.B., whose term of command expires in February, 1903. The Fusiliers go to India.

Mr. Harry Panmure Gordon, the expert in Chinese and Japanese finance, has died suddenly. Mr. Panmure Gordon was formerly well known out in this part of the world, in the firm of Lindsay and Co., of Shanghai, Hongkong, etc., being in command of the Sh.anghai Mounted Rangers Volunteers during the Taiping rebellion. Born in 1837, Mr. Gordon was educated at Harrow, Oxford, and Bonn. He received a commission in the 10th Hussars and served for four years, after which he abandoned the army for commerce and came out to China for five years. On his return to England he became a member of the London Stock Exchange, where he remained for some thirty years, being senior partner of the firm of Panmure Gordon, Hill & Co. The deceased was a man of versatile talents, being known, among other things, as a breeder of collie dogs.

An Imperial Edict has been issued abolishing *lekin* stations in China. It declares that, during the period of negotiation for new commercial treaties with foreign states, an understanding has been arrived at for an increase in the import and export duties. Nevertheless, contrary to expectation, the Anglo-Chinese Commercial Treaty was not signed on the 31st ult. Sir James Mackay, Great Britain's representative, refused to sign owing to the indefinite wording of the Imperial Edict on the question of the surtax. He cancelled his passage to England, which he had already booked by the next *Empress* steamer. It was understood that the terms of the Treaty were not questioned, the matter being simply one of interpretation of the Imperial decree. The Treaty was ultimately signed on the night of the 5th inst. Mr. Conger, United States Minister at Peking, has been instructed to conclude a treaty with China similar to the Anglo-Chinese Treaty.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

(*Daily Press*, 30th August.)

The most important measure which is to come before the Legislative Council in the near future, if indeed it is not the most important measure which has ever come before that body since its institution, is "The Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1902", as it is comprehensively called. This Bill should have come up for second reading in the Council on the 8th August, but on that day H.E. the Officer Administering the Government stated that, after a good deal of consideration, he thought that it would be fairer both to H.E. the Governor and to the Legislative Council to postpone the second reading until Sir HENRY BLAKE's return to Hongkong, so that the same chairman might carry out the whole important matter. This delay has enabled the public, to a limited extent, to hear the land-owners' case, for although the report on the ordinance drawn up for the owners—the European owners, it is to be remarked, for the Chinese landlords are preparing their own case—by MESSRS. DANBY, DENNISON, RAM & GIBBS, LEIGH & ORANGE, and PALMER & TURNER, is dated the 5th August, it was not actually in print until two weeks later. The questions involved in the proposed measure are so vital to the future well-being of the Colony that it is well that all interested should become fully acquainted, if possible, with every aspect of the case. The opportunity, therefore, given to residents here to study the case of the owners of property is to be welcomed. The fate of the Ordinance will be decided in Council, of course, but nevertheless public opinion must make its weight felt. The Legislative Council, it must be remembered, is supposed to represent the whole Colony, not one class rather than others, and in the sense of responsibility of the Council the hopes of the community must rest. The discussion which the proposed Ordinance aroused when first it was put forward by MESSRS. CHADWICK and SIMPSON was sufficient to show what controversial points were touched by it. In particular, the property-owners have subjected the measure to criticism, and in order to secure an adequate exposition of their case for the consideration of the Legislative Council they applied to certain leading civil engineers and architects in this Colony to draw up a report on the Bill, the report which is now before us. It will thus be seen that the long and carefully prepared document is not the dispassionate verdict of an expert commission, but a statement of the property-owners' case by experts retained to draw it up. Having said so much by way of preface, we must admit that the owners have every right to consideration by the Government that entered with them into the original contracts which will be affected by the Bill. Their arguments with regard to the proposed measure call for most careful attention. They do not, in the first place, object to the Bill in itself. It is the question of compensation to which they are devoting their energies. When the Bill comes up before the Legislative Council again the owners will be represented by counsel, whose arguments will mainly concern the compensation clauses, which in the measure as it stands at present are not considered to protect the owners sufficiently. That the question of compensation would be the main difficulty in the Ordinance it did not require much penetration to perceive when the draft Bill was published, and it may be safely prophesied that the settle-

ment will be arduous. No one, we imagine, will dispute that "fair compensation" is due to the property-owners, but the definition of what is fair compensation may well puzzle anyone trying to reconcile the views of the different parties. The most obvious means of estimating the amount due—and this is the means which recommends itself to the owners—is to take the market value of the property at the time of resumption of land or of alterations to buildings and by this to fix what sum the Government shall pay the owners. But, it will reasonably be objected, this is the extreme limit of compensation, not merely fair compensation, and the Government will thus be paying an extremely heavy sum to those who have already been reaping an abundant harvest out of the recent circumstances of the Colony. During the past two years and more the standard of house-rent has been increasing enormously—figures could easily be adduced to prove this, if it were at all necessary—and the profits have all gone into the landlords' pockets. The money which the Government will use to pay compensation comes from the public revenues, and the present body of ratepayers will therefore see their contributions going to pay off the most prosperous portion of the community; even though the results will be beneficial to future generations in the Colony. Moreover, it may be added, the loss occasioned by the decrease in living-room space due to alterations under the new Ordinance will assuredly not fall principally on the landlords, but on the tenants, who will find their rents increasing to meet the landlords' deficiencies. So it may be, and indeed is already, argued on the side of those who oppose the full claims of the property-owners. The Government stands between these two parties to the dispute, representing as it does, and being guardian of the interests of, the whole community of Hongkong. In justice the Governor and the Legislative Council cannot pay undue weight to the representations of either party. Their duty is to arrive at a solution of the problem which will be equitable to both. The Bill which was drafted by MESSRS. CHADWICK and SIMPSON provided for an arbitrating Board of three members to decide the amount of compensation to be paid to owners in cases of resumption of land or extinction of rights, the members of the Board being a judge of the Supreme Court, acting as Chairman, and nominees of the Governor and of the landlord respectively. To this proposal no exception has been taken by the framers of the report made for the committee of property-owners, and there is no ground for exception on the part of others. But the principle upon which the amount of compensation due is to be arrived at is of course not specified in the draft Bill, and it is this principle which calls for full discussion in the Legislative Council, the guardians of the rights of the whole community, landlords and tenants alike.

(*Daily Press*, 2nd September.)

It will readily be understood by all who have followed the course of the agitation for sanitary improvements in Hongkong, which culminated in the mission of two experts from home and the preparation by them of the measure entitled "The Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1902," that one of the greatest evils with which we have to contend here is that of overcrowding. As MESSRS. CHADWICK and SIMPSON pointed out in the report issued over their signatures last June, there are two kinds of overcrowding, caused respectively by too many houses in one area and by too many people in one house. Both these varieties of overcrowding

will be found throughout the native quarters of this city. They exist in conjunction, and the result is a very unhealthy density of population. It is interesting to see how we stand in comparison with other cities. In the June number of the *North American Review* there is published a paper on "Municipal Suppression of Infection and Contagion," by DR. E. J. LEDERLE, the Commissioner of Health for New York City. A paragraph in this article runs as follows:— "The poor in tenements are more sinned against than sinning, for the greed of landlords often stands in the way of better housing for the people. In New York, the devoted labours of sanitarians interested in improving tenement conditions resulted last year in the passage of a law governing the construction of tenements, and requiring that they be built with more attention to the sanitary needs of their occupants. But, at the following session, the Legislature was besieged by greedy landlords, and it required all the efforts of the Tenement House Commission, seconded by the Board of Health, to prevent the passage of amendments which would have quite emasculated the law, and led to the construction, in the newer sections of the city, of a form of tenements calculated to perpetuate all the evils now existing in the older slums. While it is not generally known, it may be stated here that in some of the older wards in New York City there are acres of land which hold between 700 and 800 people each; the most thickly populated acre in the Old World, by way of comparison is said to be one in Prague, which accommodates 485 people. The average density of population in the whole of Manhattan Island is greater than in any other city of the civilised world; that is because three-fourths of the population live in tenements, piled tier on tier to the skies."

It is thus noted by DR. LEDERLE that some acres of land in New York have actually between 700 and 800 people living on them. Let us turn to Hongkong. Our Medical Officer of Health in his report for 1901 records the fact that the numbers of persons per acre in the ten health-districts of the city of Victoria were as follows:— 108.4, 181.9, 61.6, 465.0, 827.4, 660.8, 403.7, 448.7, 562.7, and 125.8. Thus one district, No. 5, exceeds considerably the worst figures of New York, while districts Nos. 6 and 9 are worse than the worst of Europe. Yet even in the 1901 figures there was an improvement on those of 1900, when No. 5 district was first with 849.7 persons per acre, and No. 6 district next with 816.9. There were then four other districts with a population of 500 or more per acre. But the improvement of last year still left Hongkong in a very unavoidable position with regard to overcrowding. As in New York, it is the crowded tenement house which swells up the list. The average numbers of persons per floor and per house in the Colony in 1901 were 7.6 and 21.6, more than nine being the average number on a floor in No. 9 health-district and between twenty-five and twenty-six the average per house in No. 4 district. This is the chief evil resulting from the abuse of the cubicle system, about which the proposed Ordinance has already roused a good deal of discussion. By the facility which at present exists for cutting up one room or floor into a number of small cubicles, most of them without windows and with very imperfect ventilation, the less wealthy natives are enabled to live crowded together in parts to the extent of more than eight hundred on an acre of ground. What

follows? We quote the New York Health Commissioner again:—"It is an accepted fact that an increased death-rate is an almost inevitable concomitant of increased density of population. The Registrar-General of England, some years ago, showed that, whereas the mean death-rate per 100 in a district with only 166 persons per square mile was 16.75 per 1,000 it was 38.62 per 1,000 in a district where there were 65,000 persons per square mile. For the former section, the mortality of children under five years was 37 per 1,000, while for the latter it was 139 per 1,000—it isful evidence, indeed, as to the expectation of life for the children of the tenements in our cities." It is of course impossible, from the shifting character of our native population, to get a reliable record of the death-rate, but in his report for 1901 Dr. CLARK estimates the general death-rate among the Chinese as not less than 35 to 36 per 1,000. We have no figures for the mortality of children under five years of age, but in the report for 1900 Dr. CLARK showed that out of every thousand Chinese infants born in this Colony only seventy two survive for a period of twelve months. It will be seen that the balance of credit is certainly not on the side of Hongkong in this comparison even if we make due allowance for the less healthy conditions of life in the Far East.

To sum up shortly—Hongkong is not in a satisfactory sanitary condition; overcrowding is one of the most potent causes of this; and therefore to improve the public health we must attack the overcrowding evil with the utmost possible vigour. We are not going to compare the property-owners of Hongkong with those of New York, so lacking in public spirit, as described above. But we do trust that no attempts will be made to "emasculate" the Bill, as was attempted in the New York case. A weak Bill would be worse than useless, and the penalty for its deficiencies would ultimately recoil on the heads of those who caused them. What is required is a strong Bill, which provides fair compensation for the property-owners while alleviating the conditions under which the tenants live.

THE TREATMENT OF UNDESIRABLES IN HONGKONG.

(*Daily Press*, 1st September.)

The behaviour of the lower class Chinese in this Colony, of the status loosely defined as "coolie," has always been of a fluctuating character, not because the evil characters have at times become repentant and suddenly attempted to reform their ways, but chiefly, we imagine, because certain seasons occasion the coming over from the mainland of China of an extra supply of native labourers, in whose ranks are many undesirable as well as many desirable residents for this Colony, while, on the other hand, the temporary cessation of active employment in some branches of industry causes numbers of the less valuable workmen to return to their own homes. No doubt, too, an outburst of zeal on the part of the police has an excellent effect in the clearing away from our midst of many natives with whose presence we can well dispense. But, whatever be the reasons, there is most certainly a periodicity in the displays of the criminal propensities of the more turbulent of the Chinese in the Island. At the present moment we seem to be enjoying (as the phrase goes) one of these periods, though of course it is nothing like some of the outbreaks which used to render Hongkong notorious in the past, from

the early days when in August, 1846, residents were advised to carry arms and not proceed to any distance from the town alone. In those times the local papers were full of accounts of outrages, and extraordinary measures were necessary, as any history of Hongkong will show. Now matters are very different. The other day an American Missionary declared that the streets of Hongkong were as safe as those of any big town in his native land. And so for the most part they are. We cannot, however, shut out eyes to the fact that the criminal class has recently been giving notable evidence of its presence. Three instances of snatching of property in broad daylight on the public road have been chronicled in these columns of late, two within the last week. We have also had to call attention to the practice of throwing missiles from houses at passing Europeans. Petty thefts from respectable natives as well as from European firms have been certainly very common this year and, we should fancy, above the average of late years in number. Such offences as these are not to be compared with the violent outrages of earlier Hongkong history, but nevertheless they cannot be passed over in silence without injury to the good name of the Colony. The increase in the number of these breaches of the peace may well be due to extraneous circumstances, as has been suggested above, but this does not render it any the less advisable that special steps should be taken. Mr. HAZELAND has shown, in some of his recent sentences at the Police Court, that he thinks that the infliction of corporal punishment will have a beneficially deterrent effect. There are people who dispute this in the case of European offenders, but we do not know that any, speaking from knowledge, would argue in like manner in the case of Chinese criminals, even if it were to be granted that they are right about Europeans. It is certain, at any rate, that the flogged native thief is unlikely in most cases to emerge from gaol any the less thievish in propensities from his flogging. Is there then any addition to the ordinary sentence of imprisonment for theft and such offences, which will benefit the Colony? We think that there is, in the more frequent deportation of such offenders from Hongkong. The power of banishing these "undesirables" rests in the Governor, and it might well be more freely used. We get much of the scum of China (as Chinese residents will be among the first to admit) coming to the Colony, and having a means to hand of turning back the stream, we should not be so chary of using it. One other point we would urge on the Government, and that is the stationing of European policemen, or in default of them Indian policemen with a knowledge of English, in districts where outrages against Europeans occur. We do not mean, of course, that wherever an European has a watch or handbag snatched away or some such outrage occurs a white constable should at once be placed at that point. But certainly if more than one offence of the kind occurs in a certain neighbourhood and it is found that no intelligent constable was at hand, there is a call for more efficient police protection. We trust that we can say this without being taken to cast a slur of the police administration, which is far from being our desire. Efficient municipal government, however, even in a Crown colony, is not probable without an understanding between public and police, and in Hongkong the public does not yet feel that the police force is thoroughly able to give it that full measure of protection against lawbreakers for which it has a right to look.

THE SHANGHAI CONSERVANCY QUESTION.

(*Daily Press*, 3rd September.)

We learn that notwithstanding that all the preliminaries as to the scope and composition of the Conservancy Board for Shanghai were discussed prior to the signing of the Protocol of 1901, and that it was presumed that everything was definitely arranged, there have been considerable difficulties in bringing about the conclusion of the whole. More than one cause is, we believe, responsible for the delay, which, although mainly, is not entirely due to the obstruction of the Chinese Government. As usually happens in such cases the chief objectors are not to be found in the ranks of the greater Powers, nominally at least, but are supposed to be found amongst one or two of the nations whose commercial interests in the trade of the port are by comparison small. It cannot be said that this is by any means satisfactory, but under the present system of international intercourse, where each individual, whatever its ability or position, claims an equal voice, it is difficult to see how these recurring deadlocks are to be avoided or parried. All these things are the more regrettable inasmuch as they give the Chinese Government, always on the look-out to take advantage of any apparent rift in the harmony of the other Powers, just the opportunity it desires to give effect to its favourite reactionary policy.

The main objection put forward by the Government at Peking, and, we are sorry to say, acquiesced in or even actually supported by the whole force of the Imperial Maritime Customs, if not indeed actually instigated by the Inspector General, is that the entire control of a work essentially local should be carried out with local funds by a body locally elected. We need hardly point out that the result of such a system of centralisation as has hitherto prevailed, in China as elsewhere, has been total and absolute failure. Neither China, as an Empire, nor the Maritime Customs, as a strongly centralised body, is perhaps individually or collectively to blame; but the fact remains, and only confirms what has been remarked everywhere else. It is instructive to turn to England and notice the different methods which have there hitherto prevailed of meeting the difficulties connected with keeping open or improving the numerous harbours along the coast. The rule prevailing is that the authority immediately, or most immediately concerned, has full powers in everything touching the harbour and approaches; that is to say that where the chief use is for Imperial purposes the Government takes control, and where for ordinary trading purposes local boards of varying composition and powers are entrusted with the entire management. Of course harbours whose use is for war purposes, as Portsmouth and the Medway, are entirely cared for by the Government, but there are others whose main use is for the despatch of mails and passengers, as for instance Holyhead and Dover, where the Government takes also absolute control. On the other hand strictly mercantile ports as, for instance Liverpool, Glasgow, or the Tyne, have private bodies locally elected who take supreme control. The most marked instance of this is the Liverpool Dock and Harbour Trust, a practically self-elected corporation which takes command almost without appeal of everything connected with the entrance to the Mersey. The good effect of the enormous powers exercised by the board is that from being little more than

an ordinary fishing-port, the port of Liverpool has grown to be the largest and almost most important in the Empire. Glasgow has little less authority than Liverpool, and the powers conferred on each go from these in a diminishing scale. Between the ports by this means is kept up a wholesome rivalry, so that the highest efficiency of each is automatically secured. With a Government control none of this rivalry can be expected: the interests of the Government, or of the particular service for which the harbour is kept up are, of course, attended to, but there is comparatively little attention paid to the interests of mere private trade.

Such has been the experience of England hitherto. One partial exception occurred in the port of London, the port which has hitherto enjoyed the most valuable trade of the Empire, if not of the world. It might have been anticipated that as the most ancient, as well as being the Metropolitan port where the King had always his headquarters, the port of London would have been mainly if not entirely cared for by the Government. On the other hand London has always been the centre of civic freedom, and between these two opposing principles the affairs of the port proper came to fall into a curiously entangled mess of public and private interests; the result of which has been that there practically existed no controlling influence whatever, and London got on as best it could—which practically meant that it did not get on at all. Some years ago under the authority of Parliament, and in order to get rid of this state of stagnation, a body denominated the Thames Conservancy was constituted, and it was hoped that this neglect would be remedied. The result was instructive. The Parliament that constituted the board was too timid to grant full powers over the many private interests that claimed a part in the general trade of the port, and the powers of the Conservancy in raising revenue were likewise limited. As soon as it began to show any signs of activity, and approached the private wharfingers and other bodies having any say in the river, all without exception refused to move unless bought out at prohibitory rates, and these the Conservancy, hampered in its finance, was unable to look at. The Conservancy, thinking that in the then temper of Parliament any application for further powers would meet with a refusal, did what the Chinese Government would have itself done—nothing. Meanwhile other ports were improving their position, and Hamburg and the other continental centres took advantage to press on their Governments the opportunities offered by the nonchalance of the Thames authorities for pushing their own trade. Belgium and Holland, too, began to see their way to the expenditure of large sums of money profitably, while London went dreamily about her own affairs; with the natural consequence that at last the metropolis commenced to see her supremacy rapidly leaving her. Ships were growing bigger and bigger, and the river instead of improving was gradually deteriorating—the Thames in fact was becoming a second Whangpoo. Such was the position two years ago, when yielding to outside clamour, the Government felt itself compelled to appoint a Royal Commission to take into consideration the whole subject. That Commission has just made its report, and it is curious to observe that it has joined in a recommendation to do practically the same as the protocol arranged should be done in the case of the Whangpoo. That is to place the entire harbour and its approaches in the hands of a local Board of Conservancy,

locally appointed or elected, and with powers to raise local revenue. Nor has the similarity ended there. The appointments to the Board are to be made in an almost identical manner, that is to say by the great Municipalities, and by persons selected by those immediately interested in the trade of the place. There is, however, one curious but instructive difference: while the Shanghai regulations provide for the Government at Peking being largely represented, those propounded by the Royal Commission in London propose that out of forty members only two shall be appointed by the Government. It would be impossible to give a more complete rebuff to the arguments put forward by the Chinese Government than is afforded by the Report of the Commission. As we have, however, already exceeded all reasonable length, we propose to revert to this interesting document more fully in a subsequent issue.

PLAQUE INOCULATION.

(*Daily Press*, 4th September.)

Many reports have been published recently in these columns describing the measures undertaken by various Governments to combat the ravages of plague. Two weeks ago we drew attention to a very elaborate scheme which the authorities in the Punjab division of India are putting into operation this month for inoculating between six and seven millions of people. From this scheme the best results are expected by those who are responsible for it, but in consonance with British ideas of Government the inoculation is to be entirely voluntary and therefore the success of the experiment depends largely on the way in which the native population falls in with the views of the authorities. We have now before us a record of an inoculation experiment which was actually carried through by another Government, namely by the Japanese in Formosa, and which was attended by a considerable measure of success. In his report on South Formosa for 1900-01 Mr. Consul KENNY describes the methods which the Japanese authorities there took. The 1901 outbreak of plague in South Formosa was the severest on record, the number of cases from January to August, when the epidemic ceased, being 2,730, with 2,028 deaths. The Japanese took stringent measures to combat the disease and, well up to date as usual, inaugurated a system of inoculation, which turned out very successfully. Altogether 10,876 persons, natives and Japanese, were inoculated. Of these only .64 per 1,000 were attacked by plague, as against 2.661 per 1,000 among the non-inoculated population. For the sake of such readers as may be professionally interested in the question we quote the following passage from Mr. KENNY's report:—“According to a report by Dr. MAXWELL, the medical attendant to this Consulate, the preparation employed for inoculation purposes was one made by Professor KITASATO, and differs from STAFFKINE's [? HAFFKINE's] fluid in containing only the bodies of the bacilli and not their toxines, at least to a very much less extent. The fluid is prepared from growths on agar-agar, not as in STAFFKINE's from bouillon cultures. From the agar the bacilli are scraped and suspended in a 5 per cent. solution of carbolic acid; the solution is then sterilised by heat, and, thus prepared, is ready for inoculation, after the strength has been finally ascertained by animal experiment. The inoculations are performed by the injection of the fluid by means of a simple hypodermic syringe into the

“muscles of the back. The quantity injected is increased from 1 grammme on the first occasion to 1.5 grammes on the second and to 2 grammes on the third.”

The result of the inoculation experiment was attended, as can be seen from the above by no small measure of success. The same report comes from all quarters where this prophylactic measure has been adopted. As we suggested the other day, it may come to pass in Hongkong that such a plan will necessarily be adopted, though it is hoped at present that this will not be the case. In view, however, of such a possibility, the previous trials of other places in the direction of plague-prevention are of immense value, and for this reason we now call attention to the labours of the Japanese medical authorities in Formosa.

THE DESERT OF LOP.

(*Daily Press*, 6th September.)

To anyone who has read the interesting pages of the prince of mediaeval travellers old MARCO POLO (and who that takes any thought of the history and antiquities of Eastern Asia has not?), the story of the great Desert of Lop must always possess a peculiar fascination. “Lop,” the old traveller tells us, “is a large town at the edge of the Desert which is called the Desert of Lop, and is situated between east and north-east. It belongs to the Great Kaan, and the people worship MAHOMMET. The length of this Desert is so great that 'tis said it would take a year or more to ride from one end of it to the other. And here where its breadth is least, it takes a month to cross it. 'Tis all composed of hills and valleys of sand, and not a thing to eat is to be found on it. But after riding for a day and a night you find fresh water, enough mayhap for some 50 or 100 persons with their beasts, but not for more. Beasts there are none; for there is nought for them to eat. But there is a marvellous thing related of this Desert, which is that when travellers are on the move by night, and one of them chances to lag behind or to fall asleep or the like, when he tries to gain his company again he will hear spirits talking, and will suppose them to be his comrades. Sometimes the spirits will call him by name; and thus shall a traveller of times be led astray so that he never finds his way. Even in the day time one hears those spirits talking. And sometimes you shall hear the sound of a variety of musical instruments, and still more commonly the sound of drums.”

The superstitions of the neighbouring inhabitants have always peopled these dreary wastes with supernatural indwellers; but these superstitions find their justification in the surviving traditions that these now solitary wilds were once the abodes of a civilised people who had raised large and important cities, surrounded with all the necessaries, and many of the luxuries of life, on sites long ago covered with the ever shifting sands of the desert. In 1889 Lieutenant BOWER obtained at Kuchar, on the northern flank of the Desert, an ancient manuscript written on birch-bark, which on investigation proved to be written in an old form of Sanscrit; and to be, in fact, the oldest of existing Sanscrit manuscripts. This proved but the pioneer of further discoveries, and Russian and French explorers followed up the cue. Lately on his first journey of exploration to these regions Dr. SWEN HEDIN actually lighted on the ruins of one or more of these ancient buried cities, and in addition to some very remarkable finds *in situ* proved that a rich field

lay to be unearthed by future explorers. The dry sands of the desert have preserved in an extraordinary degree such perishable materials as woodwork and plaster, even the colours of the ancient mural decorations appearing in their original tints, while fragments of Buddhist texts on bark, skin, or wood held out the hope that a rich reward awaited the future explorer. Lieut. BOWER's original discovery had awokened the interest of the Indian Government as to the possibilities of the light likely to be cast on early Indian history by these discoveries, in countries known in the earlier ages to have been in close touch with Indian rule and Indian religious cult. Accordingly in June, 1900, Dr. STEIN, who had been engaged on topographical and archaeological work in Kashmir and elsewhere, and whose scholarly work *Chronicles of the Kings of Kashmir* shows that he was in every way fitted for the work of exploration, was placed by the Indian Government on special duty, and directed to explore Chinese Turkestan, more especially the districts about Khoten. A preliminary report recently issued gives an account of what he was able to accomplish. Fortunately the Chinese officials in the district, when he referred to the travels of the old Buddhist monk YUEN CHWANG, of which most of them had some idea, were led to take a personal interest in the work and seemed to have given him every facility. He was thus able to explore the sites of several of the buried cities lying between Khoten and Cherchen, and to fill twelve large boxes with articles of archaeological interest, including reliefs, frescoes, painted tablets, manuscripts, and other remains of ancient Central Asian art, as well as a series of anthropological measurements of the present inhabitants of these little known lands. When it is remembered that these lands were the original home of the famous FRANGACYAN, who with his brothers CAIRIM and ERIJ were the eponyms of the three great branches of the Indo-Germanic peoples, the Turanian, Sarmatian, and Aryan respectively, it will be readily seen that the exploration of these ancient fertile lands, now the seat of howling deserts, must have for us personally a great and special interest. Recently the connection of the old Turanians with the Turkish stock, generally current only a generation ago, is being seriously called in question; while on the other hand the former extension into these regions of the Gothic tribes is being rendered more and more certain. In such a case the suggestion that FRANGACYAN was in reality the eponym of the Frankish tribes, is deserving of a hearing. In any case there is much to be learned from a close study of the old manuscripts and inscriptions obtained; and it is to be hoped that the Indian Government, having once put its hand to the plough, will not fail to carry out the exploration so well begun to the end.

Dr. Solf, Governor of Samoa, who reached Singapore by the *Prinz Regent Luitpold*, intends to visit several China coast ports as well as Hongkong. He will also pay a visit to the Sunda Archipelago for a minute investigation of the practicability of sending Chinese coolies to Samoa. It now transpires that the matter has assumed another phase, as the Samoa Company has taken it in hand and intends to transport to Upolu from 300 to 400 Chinese; whereas Dr. Solf only had intended to make the first trial with about 60 Chinamen, for which 15,000 marks had been allowed by Government. There are a good many there who regard the undertaking with unfavourable eyes, fearing that the morals of the islanders might be contaminated by the Chinese.

THE ANGLO-CHINESE COMMERCIAL TREATY.

(*Daily Press*, 5th September.)

In the absence of detailed news from Shanghai with regard to the Anglo-Chinese commercial treaty it is difficult to make out the exact course which events have taken during the past few days, and comment therefore has seemed superfluous. REUTER's telegrams have brought us what little information has reached Hongkong with reference to the treaty. From these it appears that after Sir JAMES MACKAY and the Chinese commissioners had arrived at an understanding the terms of the agreement were sent to Peking and on the 29th ultimo the Imperial approval was telegraphed to Shanghai. It was then expected that the treaty would be signed on the next day, the 30th ultimo, to come into force on the last day of October. Thus all seemed settled. REUTER's despatch of the 31st August announced the publication of an Imperial decree abolishing *lekin*. Later on the same day, however, the same agency announced that the treaty had not been signed on the 30th, Sir JAMES MACKAY refusing to sign owing to certain indefiniteness in the wording of the Imperial decree. The terms of the treaty, explained the telegram, were not questioned, but the matter was simply one of interpretation of the treaty. In to-day's issue appears a telegram from London, which states that the following is quoted in the *Peking Gazette* as part of the edict:—“*Lequin* will be abolished when all the foreign governments have agreed to the proposed increase in the import and export duties.” As the two measures were intended to balance each other and the Chinese government has given its sanction to the treaty it might have been supposed by those unacquainted with China that definite terms had been arrived at. Those who are acquainted with Chinese methods, on the other, will exhibit no surprise. It would be satisfactory, nevertheless, to learn from Shanghai what exactly happened during the last days of August.

[Our Shanghai correspondent has since telegraphed that the treaty was signed on the night of the 5th inst.—Ed. D.P.]

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 3rd inst. in the Council Chamber. Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCE THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT, Major-General Sir W. GASCOIGNE, K.C.M.G. (Commanding the Troops).

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary). Hon. Sir HENRY SPENCER BERKELEY, K.N.T. (Attorney-General).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer). Hon. Commander R. M. RUMSEY, R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).

Hon. F. W. CLARK (Medical Officer of Health.)

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, C.M.G.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Hon. C. S. SHARP.

Hon. C. W. DICKSON.

Hon. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR.

Hon. R. SHEWAN.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minutes (Nos. 39 to 50) and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 11) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table a paper on Sanitation, an extract of the City of Bombay Improvement Act, 1898, also the Act itself, and a report on the sewerage and drainage of Hongkong. The information with regard to the Bombay Improvement Act, he explained was given in answer to a question put on the 4th of June on behalf of Hon. T. H. Whitehead relative to the resumption of insanitary properties in Bombay.

HOUSE-COLLAPSES.

Hon. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR formally put the question which stood against his name on the agenda paper.

The question was:—With reference to the recent collapses of newly erected houses in both Hongkong and Kowloon and consequent deplorable loss of life, what steps have the Government taken to fix the responsibility? Will the Government take steps to license contractors under bond or otherwise? Will the Government state what the regulations are as to public enquiries being held into accidents such as these? Will the Government table a return showing the number of houses which have collapsed this year with fatal results and giving the owners' names, the architects' names, the contractors' names, and date of erection?

The COLONIAL TREASURER.—The replies to the questions are:—(1.) The Police Magistrate is about to hold enquiries into several of the collapses that were attended with loss of life; the Crown Solicitor will appear on behalf of the Crown. (2.) The Government does not consider it practicable to license contractors, because it is only in exceptional cases that Chinese contractors possess such trainings as would justify the issue of licences. Owners of property should be guided by the advice of their architects in selecting a contractor. As a rule they seem to be guided by the lowest tender only. (3.) There are no regulations on the subject, but Ordinance 17 of 1888, Section 6, provides that in cases of sudden or violent death the magistrate may, if he considers an enquiry to be necessary, enquire into the cause of death either with or without a jury, and make such order with regard thereto as he shall consider necessary. (4.) The return is laid on the table. This return has only just been received from the printers, and has not yet been revised. A revised copy will be furnished as soon as it is received.

INTEGRITY OF A PUBLIC SERVANT.

Hon. C. S. SHARP asked—Will the Honourable Colonial Secretary inform the Council—(1.) Whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the account of the hearing of an assault case before the Police Magistrate on 5th instant; and (2.) Whether the Government proposes to take any action with reference to certain allegations in the evidence given in the said case, which bears upon the question of the integrity of a public servant?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The replies are as follows:—(1) Yes, it has been drawn; (2) It is not proposed to take any action.

CHAIR-COOLIES.

Hon. R. SHEWAN asked—Can the Police not take measures to prevent chair-coolies from deserting their chairs when most required on occasions such as the Coronation night, for instance? Are the chair-coolies allowed to leave their chairs lying unprotected on the public street? If not, can the Police not take the number of chairs so deserted and have the coolies belonging to such chairs punished by fine or the licensee punished by forfeiture of his licence? If the Police have no power to do this, will the Government not bring in an Ordinance giving the Police such power? In view of the present great scarcity of chairs, will the Government not license a further large number of chairs either direct or through a contractor and continue to do so until the supply fully equals the demand? Can the Government not appoint stands for chairs and rickshas and instruct the Police to prevent the coolies from leaving the stands without sufficient reason? If not, will the Government farm out all the chairs and rickshas to a contractor who could deposit a sum of money as a guarantee for the good behaviour of the coolies?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Before I answer these questions, sir, I may state that I have answered them as far as I understood them. In some of them I do not exactly know what information the hon. member desires. The

answers as I have prepared them are as follows: The Police have no legal power to force chair-coolies to ply for hire if the coolies prefer not to ply for hire. Chair-coolies are not allowed to leave their chairs unprotected in the street. If they do and the chairs are seen by the Police the latter are in the habit of summoning the licences for obstruction. No limit is placed on the number of licensed chairs in Victoria. The licence fee is only \$2 a year and there is nothing to hinder the supply meeting the demand. At the Peak the number of chairs, for want of accommodation for the bearers, is limited. Additional quarters are being built for more bearers, and additional chairs will be licensed there in due course. Stands are appointed for chairs and jiurickshas; see regulations published in the *Government Gazette* of 29th July, 1899. Coolies are not allowed to wait or ply for hire except at the authorised stands. The Police have however no power to require that any particular vehicle or number of vehicles shall stand for hire at any particular stand. The law of demand and supply is expected to effect a solution to that question. The Government does not consider that any good would result from getting a person to guarantee the good behaviour of coolies. There are ample means to ensure good conduct, but it is necessary that such members of the public as have cause of complaint should go to the trouble of preferring their complaint before the Magistrate or the Captain Superintendent of Police. The public is, however, extremely lax in doing so, and the coolies know it and probably trade on the knowledge. It should be observed that an epidemic of dengue has been responsible for the scarcity of chair-coolies that has been experienced of late.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—May I remark, sir, that the first question says nothing about applying for hire at all? I simply asked if the police could not take measures to prevent chair-coolies from deserting their chairs; the chairs are there, but we cannot find the coolies. There is nothing about compelling them to ply for hire.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The hon. member is not in order in discussing the question. If he wishes any further information he can put another question.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—Sir, I know I am not in order in discussing the question, but I am not discussing the question. I am only complaining that I have not got an answer.

HIS EXCELLENCE—I think I may say, without trespassing upon order, that you have had an answer to your question. Your see, your questions were mixed up, and we thought the best way of answering them was by giving the information in the way we imagined you wanted it. If you look, I think you will find the answers.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—Surely it is a plain question—Can the police not take measures to prevent chair-coolies deserting their chairs? There can be no doubt about the meaning of that question. They leave their chairs on the streets; and when we want them we can see the chairs but cannot find the coolies. Can the police not prevent them leaving their chairs like that?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I have answered that question.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The police have no legal powers.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—They can take their chairs away.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—They are not allowed to leave their chairs unprotected on the streets.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—But they do it.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—If they do and are seen by the police the latter are in the habit of summoning the licences for obstruction.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—But they don't do it.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—That is another question.

The matter then dropped.

NATURALISATION BILL.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, a Bill entitled an Ordinance for the Naturalisation of Leung Ngan Pan alias Leung Wai Ching, was read a first time.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the standing orders were suspended to allow the Bill to be read a second time, and the Council afterwards went into Committee and considered the Bill clause by clause.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—May I ask a question, sir? Has the Attorney-General considered the desirability of naturalising these Chinese under one name. The Prince Judge some time ago said it was a great inconvenience to the course of justice that these Chinese should be allowed so many *aliases*. It is not customary for British subjects to be allowed an *alias*. If there are any so-called disabilities he should have to undergo those disabilities.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, the Chinese have various names.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—If I might be allowed to make some remark upon this I should say the practice of putting all a man's names down here should be retained, inasmuch as whether we naturalise him or not he still has these names. They stick to him. It is the usual custom of the Chinese to have these names. The naturalisation of a man under these names is simply for the purpose of identification. They are put down so that there may be no mistake. It would be a bad practice, I am afraid, to leave out all but one name.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—It is not a question of what his name is now, but of what it is to be in the future.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—These names belong in almost all cases to gentlemen. And there are other people besides Chinese who have long strings of names. In a legal document the full name ought to be properly stated. I think that where the incongruity appears is in the insertion of the word "alias." The man's name is really not so-and-so alias something else, for all the names are his. In future Bills we had better leave out the word "alias."

Hon. R. SHEWAN—Will you make him sign them all in future?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—You cannot compel a man, who may carry a long string of names, to sign all his names. A man called John Henry James signs himself J. H. James.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—That is all we want; that he signs only one name.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I do not think that we can compel him to do that. In future we can leave out the "alias."

The COLONIAL TREASURER—Give him his full name.

Hon. R. SHEWAN—But British subjects do not have these names.

Hon. WAI A YUK—But the Chinese have these names before they are naturalised. I have five names myself, but I only use one.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I will strike out the word "alias."

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—Put in "otherwise known as."

Hon. R. SHEWAN—But what is "alias."

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—"Alias" if just "otherwise known as." He went on to move that "alias" be struck out of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

On the Council resuming the Bill was read a third time and passed on the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

NOTICE OF QUESTION.

Hon. C. W. DICKSON gave notice of the following question, to be asked at next meeting of Council:—"Is it a fact that the houses which have recently collapsed were built in accordance with the Building Ordinances in force in this Colony, and so certified by the Director of Public Works?"

THE GENERAL'S VALEDICTORY ADDRESS.

HIS EXCELLENCE—Gentlemen, before we separate I should like to detain you with a few words. This is the last time, to my great regret, that I shall have the honour of presiding over this Council, and believe me when I say that the eight months of my administration I shall ever look back upon with the utmost pleasure and with the utmost pride. We have gone through some rather anxious times together. First of all, there was the water famine, accompanied as it was by a rather serious outbreak of cholera, imported, it is true, but none the less serious on that account. You, gentlemen, know, and I know, how anxious a time that was to us, and how deeply we sympathised with the sufferings of the community. I may mention incidentally that I was very much struck at the time by the patience and forbearance with which these sufferings were borne. The time was short; we were quite unprepared, but you gave

me a free hand. We spared no expense, and we adopted the best measures that we could. Perhaps they were not the very best possible, but they were the best possible under the circumstances. Fortunately for us, the evil was staved off without any serious results other than the sufferings and discomfort I speak of. Then came the Coronation, with its anxieties, almost amounting to despair; then its postponement owing to the King's illness, the revival of hope on His Majesty's recovery, and ultimately its consummation.

As I have said before, gentlemen, your good advice and good judgment enabled us to celebrate the Coronation here with a dignity befitting this prosperous and rising Colony. Gentlemen, in the last eight months we have had a good number of changes in this Council. We have, first of all, a new Colonial Secretary, and I venture to think that the appointment of Mr. May was a very sound and a very good one. (Applause.) It may not be generally known, but it is none the less a fact, that when the vacancy occurred the two Senior Unofficial Members of that day asked me, on behalf of all the Unofficial Members, to telegraph to the Secretary of State recommending the appointment of Mr. May. I had already made that recommendation, but this greatly strengthened my hands. The result was that the appointment was made, and I repeat, I think it was a sound and good one. Mr. May is thoroughly honest and conscientious and a very hard worker, and his heart is bound up in the best interests of the Colony. (Applause.) Next we have a new Attorney-General. Gentlemen, I venture to think that a little new blood is sometimes a good thing. (Applause.) The present Attorney-General brings with him a long experience gained in other colonies, and I have already seen signs that this experience will be of lasting benefit to us here in Hongkong. (Applause.) We have also had within the last few months four Unofficial members joining this Council. Each one of these members, I think, has shown his desire to represent to the best of his ability the interests of those who elected him. The very questions that have been placed on the records to-day serve to prove this, and I think myself that everyone of these four gentlemen has indeed thoroughly justified his election. In fact, gentlemen, I cannot help thinking that the Council to-day, as I leave it, is about as good as it is possible to be.

Wherever a body of men are gathered together there will be diversity of opinion, but to my mind the true triumph of a legislative assembly is the free ventilation of all opinions without personal animus or rancour; then a quiet deliberation of all the arguments adduced, culminating in legislation which, in the opinion of the majority, is in the best interests of the community. (Applause.) That, I believe, obtains in the Council to-day; I go farther, and I say I believe myself that if in the near future legislation of a rather drastic kind is required in the Colony, this Council is sufficiently liberal-minded and honest enough to pass such legislation, even if it hits some of the individual members rather hard in their individual interests. We have been a very happy and united community, and it now only remains for me, gentlemen, to thank you with my whole heart for the indulgence you have shown me in my shortcomings, and for the persistent help and friendship and assistance you have accorded to me. I repeat, I shall look back upon the eight months of my administration with the greatest pleasure and the greatest pride, and when I rejoin you all, my colleagues, I shall feel that I am coming amongst a body of real, true, and tried friends. Gentlemen, the Council is dissolved *sine die*. (Applause.)

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council, the Colonial Secretary (Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.) presiding.

CHINESE EMIGRATION ORDINANCE.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$200 to cover, during the current year, the salary of a clerk for the Registrar-General's Department, in connection with the Chinese Emigration (Amendment) Ordinance No. 37 of 1901, for 5 months at the rate of \$4 per mensem. The vote was agreed to.

REGISTER EXPENSES.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$478.55 in aid of the vote of \$700, "Furniture and Incidental Expenses," Registrar-General's Department.

The vote was passed.

REPAIRS TO SHAN-HAI P. O.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$175 in aid of the vote of \$240, "Repairs to Post Office at Shanghai."

The vote was approved.

TREASURY EXPENSES.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$300 in aid of the vote \$60, "Incidental Expenses, Treasury."

The vote was agreed to.

CIVIL HOSPITAL EXPENSES.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$1,239.59 in aid of the vote of \$3,500, "Bedding and Clothing, Government Civil Hospital."

The recommendation was approved.

TYPHOON DAMAGES.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$250, in aid of the vote of \$6,500, "Maintenance of Botanic Gardens, &c.," to cover the cost of repairing the damages done by the recent typhoons and rain-storms.

The recommendation was approved.

SANITARY DEPARTMENT CHARGES.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$11,700 in aid of the Sanitary Department's vote "Other Charges," to meet anticipated excesses on the sub-heads "Incidental Expenses," "Scavenging City, Villages and Hill Districts," and "Electric Lighting of Central Market."

This vote was also agreed to.

BONUS TO FIRE BRIGADE.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$500, being grant of a bonus to the members of the Fire Brigade.

The CHAIRMAN stated that during the drought there were several large fires which gave the Fire Brigade a great deal of work out of the ordinary. The Committee were asked to vote this sum as a bonus to the members of the Brigade.

The vote was agreed to.

LIUKUNGTAO POST OFFICE.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$210, in aid of the cost of the Post Office at Liukungtao, from 1st August to 31st December, 1902.

The vote was passed.

BACTERIOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$8,478.13 to cover the expenses, for the current year, of the Bacteriological Department.

Abstract.

Personal emoluments for Dr. Hunter, 17th January to 26th February at half salary, and from 27th February to 31st December, 1902, full salary £500 per annum. \$4,436.80 Allowance for quarters at \$60 per month from 27th February to 31st December, 1902. 604.29 Cost of apparatus, £900 at 1/84 3,437.04

Total, \$8,478.13

The vote was approved.

PLAQUE EXPENSES.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a further sum of \$60,000 in aid of the vote of \$10,000 for "Plague Expenses" under the heading "Miscellaneous Services."

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$556.00 in aid of the following votes:—

Public Works Department.—Other Charges, Miscellaneous.

1. Mounting plans and charts, &c. . . . \$ 56.00
2. Incidental expenses 500.00

Total. \$556.00

The vote was approved.

This was all the business.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 4th inst. in the Board Room. Present:—Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer (President); Hon. Dr. F. W. Clark, Medical Officer of Health; Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works; Mr. C. C. Messer, Acting Registrar-General; and Mr. E. Osborne.

NO PLAGUE AT AMOY.

Hon. Dr. CLARK laid on the table correspondence showing that the port of Amoy was now free from plague.

ERECITION OF BALCONIES.

Correspondence was laid on the table relative to the erection of balconies over Crown Land adjoining Marine Lots No. 128 to 136, Wing Lok Street.

The plans submitted were in accordance with the regulations in force within the Colony, it was pointed out by the Director of Public Works in a minute attached, but on the motion of Mr. OSBORNE, seconded by Mr. MESSER it was agreed to refuse the application.

THE DEATH-RATE.

A return was laid on the table showing that the death-rate during the week ended 23rd August was 36.8 per 1,000 of the population per annum, as against 36.3 in the previous week and 27.0 in the corresponding period of last year.

LIME-WASHING.

The lime-washing return for the fortnight ended 30th August showed that 885 houses in the Eastern District had been so treated.

ANALYSES OF WATER.

The report of Mr. F. Browne, the Government Analyst, for the month of August, bore that the results of analyses of the public water service showed the water to be of excellent quality.

PLANS FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Plans were submitted from the Public Works Department for (1) the extension of Wanchai market, (2) a temporary market opposite the Sailors' Home, (3) a temporary market adjoining the new Harbour Office, and (4) details of stalls for the above markets.

The plans were passed, as amended.

THE TSIMSHATSUI MARKET.

Mr. OSBORNE—While we are on the subject of markets, sir, I should like to ask the Director of Public Works if he can give us any information as to the Kowloon market, the site for which was prepared some time ago?

Hon. Dr. CLARK—Why not move that the Government be asked?

Mr. OSBORNE—Very well, I beg to move that the Government be asked to proceed as soon as possible with the Tsimshatsui market.

Hon. Dr. CLARK seconded, and the motion was carried.

This was all the public business.

THE HEALTH OF HONGKONG.

On the 31st ult. the week's figures for communicable disease in the Colony were:—Plague, 8 cases (all Chinese, 7 in Victoria), with 8 deaths; cholera, 7 cases (6 Chinese, 1 Australian), with 6 deaths; enteric fever, 3 cases (1 European, 1 Indian, 1 Chinese), with 1 death, puerperal fever, 1 Chinese case.

Another day free from plague was recorded at noon on Saturday. The record for the last eight days have been:—0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0.

The year's total is now 564 cases (6 Europeans, 539 Chinese, 19 other Asiatics) and 552 deaths (4 Europeans, 533 Chinese, 15 other Asiatics).

The N.C. *Daily News* gives the following account, from a Wuchow despatch, of how General Ma lost his life in Kwangsi:—It seems that the General, with a force of nearly 2,000 men, attempted to force the gates of a walled village, called Luolai, in Wuyuan-hsien, but was received with such a hot fire from the body of rebels holding the place that in a few minutes General Ma and about eight of his men were shot down, in front of the gates. General Ma's body was eventually recovered, and his men retreated back to Nanning.

ALLEGED MURDER ON THE "CHINGTU."

The s.s. *Chingtu* which arrived in Hongkong on the 3rd inst. from Sydney was brought into unwelcome notoriety during its stay in that city by two of its engineers being charged with murder. The accused men are Archibald Kerr (46), chief engineer, and Charles Pengelly (25), second engineer. It is alleged that on 1st July, when the *Chingtu* was only 15 hours out from Hongkong, they threw a Chinese coal-trimmer overboard, one catching him by the head and the other by the feet. All the witnesses for the prosecution are Chinese, members of the crew. Evidence was taken in the Water Police Court at Sydney on the 8th ult., and the accused were afterwards committed for trial on 24th November. Both men were liberated on bail of £1,000 each, £500 of which was found by themselves and £500 by outside guarantors in each case. Mr. Kerr returned to Hongkong on the *Chingtu* on the 3rd inst., but Mr. Pengelly remains in Australia until the time of the trial. Both are trusted employees of the shipping company (Messrs. Butterfield & Swire), are well known in Hongkong, and have wide-spread sympathy with them in the painful position in which they find themselves. In their evidence the accused men stated that they had no recollection of the missing man. There seems to be some ground for the belief that the "missing" man was never on board at all—a thing which is very easily understood when one considers the system of signing on under false names and the exchange of articles that go on among the coast-town Chinese. The time at which the accused are said to have thrown the man into the sea was half-past nine on the morning of the day after the ship left Hongkong. Twenty Chinese altogether signed on in Hongkong and they are of the most ignorant and physically useless class of Cantonese. It is to be hoped that the trial will show the whole story to be a trumped-up affair.

THE WELLINGTON STREET ROBBERY.

On the 29th ult., as Mrs. Sheffield, wife of Mr. A. Sheffield, meter-inspector in the employ of the Gas Company, and residing at No. 1, Priory Lodge, Bonham Road, was proceeding up Wellington Street in the direction of Lyndhurst Terrace, she felt a sudden tug at her watch-chain, and turned round just in time to see a coolie making off with the article, to which was suspended the lady's gold watch, the whole being valued at about \$140. Mrs. Sheffield screamed and ran after the thief, but would assuredly have lost sight of both him and her valuables had it not been for the prompt assistance rendered by a European named Mr. Richard Plows and an Indian foreman in the employ of the Sanitary Board. Both heard the cries of Mrs. Sheffield, who fell during her chase, hurting her knee slightly, and they set off in pursuit of the decamping thief. He ran down a side street or lane, but was being quickly overhauled when he threw the watch and chain into a pile of wood and sought refuge in a house. Mr. Plows made after him, and soon had him under arrest, whilst the Indian searched amongst the wood for the watch and chain, which he recovered and handed to Mrs. Sheffield. The thief was taken to the Central Police Station and charged.

Before Mr. F. Hazeland at the Magistracy on Saturday, the 30th ult., the case against the coolie was proceeded with. The defendant pleaded not guilty, although caught red-handed.

Mrs. Sheffield described the theft, and was followed in the witness-box by J. J. da Silva, the Sanitary Board foreman who pursued and caught the defendant and, after handing him over to Mr. Richard Plows, the European who joined in the chase, searched in the place where the watch and chain had been thrown and restored them to their owner.

His Worship did not take any further evidence, being satisfied of the defendant's guilt.

The defendant in his statement said he was suffering from a disease and could not get any work. Footsore and weary after a long and fruitless search for a clansman, he was sitting down to rest when he saw a coolie running along the street with a watch and chain in his hand.

At a point opposite the defendant he threw them down, and the latter picked up the articles and was examining them when the Sanitary Board foreman rushed up and arrested him.

The story did credit to the prisoner's faculty of invention, but it took nothing off his sentence, which was one of six months' hard labour, the first and last 14 days to be spent in solitary confinement. He is also to receive two whippings of 20 strokes each.

His Worship directed Inspector Withers, who had charge of the case, to bring the conduct of the sanitary foreman before the notice of the Sanitary Board and police officials.

ELLIS KADOORIE SCHOOLS.

We are in receipt of a copy of the first annual report of the Ellis Kadoorie Chinese Schools Society. The report covers the year 1901-1902 and is in the following terms:—

The Members of Council have the honour to submit their first annual report on the work done by the Society during the year 1901, together with a statement of accounts for that period. As the Society is still in its infancy, there is not much to record on the present occasion, but with the assistance of the members and that of its many friends, it is hoped that the near future will see considerable progress attained in the work for which it has been called into existence. The idea of forming this Society originated with Mr. Ellis Kadoorie, who first suggested it to Mr. Lau Chu Pak on his return from a visit to the North, in November, 1900, but the scheme did not take practical shape until early in 1901, when, thanks to the generosity and valuable assistance of the members, it was put on a proper working footing. So far, including the donations from Mr. Ellis Kadoorie, who subscribed \$40,000 in Hongkong, and £1s. 10,000 in Shanghai, the Society has been able to raise \$85,693.29 locally, \$2,580.0 in the Northern port, and \$17,825.00 in Canton and in Honam, amounting in all to \$127,098.29. Owing to the plague and the repeated calls that were made in Hongkong, for various purposes, on the public purse shortly after the formation of the Society, the amount collected has fallen short of the Committee's sanguine expectations, and in this connection it must also be noted that the period during which the collections were made was marked throughout by grave political and commercial trouble. The Members of Council quite realise that the task to which they have put their hands is a tremendous one, and to make the Society a success, patient, unflagging energy, and considerable expense are necessary. It is to be hoped, therefore, that every member of the Society, here or elsewhere, will put his shoulder to the wheel and assist it in its good work to the very best of his ability. In June, 1901, our indefatigable President proceeded to Shanghai and formed a Committee there, to look after the local affairs of the Society. A site was leased for a school, and work will be started as soon as the master arrives from England, which will be some time in April next year. The first school of the Society was opened in Hongkong on the 1st October, 1901. The Chinese community was good enough to grant the Society a lease of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce for a period of 30 years, for the moderate fee of \$10,000. This sum is to be spent on improvements to the property, which occupies a very desirable site, fitted in every way for a school. Shortly after the opening of this school, Mr. Ellis Kadoorie, Mr. Fung Wa Chün and Mr. Lau Chu Pak proceeded to Canton, where, with the valuable assistance of Messrs. Choi Tsze Chong, Liao Tsze San, Chau Sui Ki and Shum Shu Yan, they were able to enlist the co-operation and support of the most respectable and influential residents of that city, including His Excellency Toa, Viceroy of the Two Kwang, and many other officials. The Viceroy gave them every encouragement, and promised them his valuable help and advice in pushing on the work of the Society. As soon as this fact became publicly known, assistance came to them from all quarters, resulting in the formation of another local Committee. Whilst on the subject of the Viceroy's encouragement and assistance, it may be mentioned that one Hung Kia Yue had, in a petition to His Excellency,

maliciously endeavoured to calumniate the Society. Fortunately, the Viceroy understood and appreciated the true motives of the Society, and commented adversely and in very severe terms on the petition. It is proposed, as an experiment, to open two schools in Canton, one in the district of Honam and the other in Sui Kwan. In Honam, a house has been purchased capable of accommodating 400 scholars: no suitable site has yet been obtained in Sui Kwan. The Canton Committee, however, have been instructed to secure one, as soon as circumstances allow. In conclusion, the Council must not forget to record a vote of thanks to Messrs. Ellis Kadoorie and Lau Chu Pak for their unremitting efforts to place the Society on a satisfactory basis, and also to Messrs. Ho Kom Tong, Pun Yan Chuen, Chan Wing Yue, Tam Tsze Kong, Chan Ngoy Ting and Li Sui Ting, for their assistance in raising subscriptions.

HONGKONG'S ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The following statement of the Colony's Assets and Liabilities on the 30th June, 1902 appears in the *Government Gazette* over the Colonial Treasurer's signature:—

ASSETS.	\$ c.
Bank balance
Crown Agents' balance
Advances, &c.	60,770 64
Subsidiary coins	1,023,000.00
 Total assets	\$1,083,770.64
Balance	1,559,129 80
 \$2,642,900.44	
LIABILITIES.	\$ c.
Deposits not available	436,797.26
Crown Agents' drafts
Money order remittances	13,085.70
Balance overdrawn, bank	2,112,636.07
Balance overdrawn, Crown Agents	80,381.41
 \$2,642,9 0.44	
Subsidiary coins in transit	734,000.00
Estimate of silver at mint	906,808.00
 \$1,640,808.00	

HONGKONG OBSERVATORY AND STORM-WARNINGS.

We have received from the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, with a request for publication, the following correspondence which has passed between the Chamber and the Government with regard to storm-warnings issued by the local Observatory, the discussion over the matter having originally arisen out of some remarks in a letter in these columns:—

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, 17th May, 1902.

SIR.—The attention of the Committee has been drawn to a statement in the *Daily Press* to the effect that the storm-warnings issued by the Sicawei Observatory, Shanghai, were not received by the Kowloon Observatory for reasons known best to the Director, and that in the absence of such notices vessels leaving here for Japan last summer had been caught in the typhoon of August in which one had been lost, and another, the Indo-China str. *Laisang*, placed in great jeopardy.

In reply to an enquiry from this Chamber as to the correctness of the statement that the Kowloon Observatory had refused to receive the Shanghai storm-warnings, the Director of the Sicawei Observatory says it is true that the Government Astronomer at Hongkong has objected to receive them and they have unfortunately been lacking in intercourse with the Hongkong Observatory.

This is not, the Committee regret to notice, the first time the Chamber has had to call attention to a want of co-operation shown by the Director of the Kowloon Observatory with other similar establishments, and of apparently causeless ill-feeling against them. They are strongly of opinion that neither professional jealousy nor disapproval of the methods of other meteorological establishments should be allowed to influence Dr. Doberck, but that he should be only too glad to avail himself of all information obtainable in order to enable him to issue timely warning of impending bad weather. It appears that on the occasion in question the

necessary warnings were given by Sicawei Observatory to south bound vessels much earlier than the Hongkong Observatory issued them to vessels bound north, and had the two Observatories been in close touch, the vessels leaving Hongkong for the north at the time would have had the benefit before their departure of the earlier warnings from Shanghai.

My Committee trust that the Government will take steps to secure reciprocal exchange of storm-warnings at the Kowloon Observatory not only with Sicawei Observatory but also endeavour to bring about friendly co-operation with all meteorological establishments throughout the Far East. They would also like to point out the great importance of the earliest possible issue of storm-warnings, whenever received, no matter if it be on Sundays or holidays.

The Committee would also point out the pressing necessity that exists, in view of the enormous value of the shipping passing through the port, for the establishment of a complete code of flag signals by day and lantern signals by night to afford every variety of weather information to the masters of vessels. Without in any way wishing to institute comparisons, it may be useful, as some guide to what is required, to mention that Shanghai possesses a code of signals worked on information supplied by the Sicawei Observatory at various hours during the day which is admitted the best in the Far East. In a matter affecting the safety of vessels and the lives of those on board there should be no delay whatever, and certainly no room for the indulgence of private feeling or petty jealousy.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

A. R. LOWE,
Secretary.

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce
4th July, 1902.

SIR.—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 21st May last (No. 1,107) stating that the non-receipt of storm-warning notices issued by the Sicawei Observatory was receiving attention.

My Committee would now be glad to know that the Government have made such arrangements as will ensure a better service of bad weather warnings at this port, as the typhoon season has commenced, and the early notice and circulation of these storm-warnings will be of the greatest service to the shipping community.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

A. R. LOWE,
Secretary.

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
31st July, 1902.

SIR.—With reference to your letter of the 4th instant I am now directed to acquaint you for the information of the Chamber of Commerce that His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has had under very careful consideration your letter of the 17th of May in which on behalf of the Chamber you drew attention to a statement in the *Daily Press* to the effect that storm-warnings issued by Sicawei Observatory were not received by the Hongkong Observatory, and that as a consequence certain vessels which left this port for Japan last summer had been caught in the typhoon of August last, and that one had been lost and the other—the s.s. *Laisang*—placed in great jeopardy.

You added that your Committee trusted that the Government would take steps to secure exchange of storm-warnings between the Hongkong Observatory and the Sicawei Observatory, and friendly co-operation between the Hongkong Observatory and all meteorological establishments throughout the Far East; and you pointed out the necessity for the earliest possible issue of storm-warnings at this port, and the adoption of a complete code of flag signals by day and lantern signals by night to afford every variety of weather information.

2. In reply I am to transmit to you for the information of the Chamber of Commerce the enclosed copy of a Memorandum, with its enclosures, drawn up the Acting Director of the Observatory which shows that the Chamber

typhoon I would feel obliged if you would let me know if the conditions were not abnormal. The extraordinary display of blinding lightning over a bank of heavy clouds to the E. S. E. all night. The absence of swell from the centre. The N. W. wind in the advancing semi-circle.

Was the captain of the *Decima* wrong in heaving too off Chelung Point? How could he get the centre over him? Did this typhoon recede to the W.S.W?

I must own I would think myself safe with the wind from N.W. and that to heave-to or run back was the proper thing to do, but although I ran to the W.N.W. 50 min. and then anchored in Fun-lo-Kong, I had the full force of the typhoon. I would feel very much obliged if you would enlighten me and a number of my *confrères*.—Thanking you in anticipation, Yours, &c.

A. C. HODGINS.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
30th August, 1902.

SIR.—Referring to the enclosures in the Chamber's letter of 23rd instant on the subject of storm-warnings, I am now directed to forward to you two further meteorological exhibits, which with those already sent, will serve to show, you the complete set of meteorological notices furnished by the Sicawei Observatory, and posted up daily at the Semaphore Station on the Bund at Fhanghai for the information of the public. The Committee venture to think that you will be interested in these notices, which, as a series, seemed to them to afford clearer and fuller weather information than the bulletins and notices issued by the Hongkong Observatory.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

A. R. LOWF,
Secretary.

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

MARRIAGE AT THE CATHEDRAL.

On the 29th ult., at 10 a.m., an interesting wedding ceremony was celebrated at S. John's Cathedral, when Lieut. Palmer, 5th Hyderabad Contingent, was married to Miss Ida Holmes, younger daughter of the late Mr. H. J. Holmes, solicitor, who practised for many years in this Colony. The Rev. J. H. France, M.A., S. Peter's Church, officiated, and the bride, who looked very winsome in a dress of cream-coloured silk, was given away by her brother, Mr. H. K. Holmes, solicitor. The bride was also attended by her sister, Miss Eva Holmes, and her brother, Mr. H. S. Holmes, whilst the bridegroom was accompanied by a number of his brother officers. Several other guests, ladies and gentlemen residing in the Colony, were also present by invitation. During the time that the bride and bridegroom were in the vestry, Mr. A. G. Ward, organist of S. John's Cathedral, played a spirited march, and on the conclusion of the ceremony, the "Wedding March."

A reception was afterwards held in the private dining-room of the Hongkong Hotel, where the health of the newly-married couple was toasted in champagne. Mr. J. W. Norton Kyshe, Registrar of the Supreme Court, proposed the toast in a happy speech, and it was enthusiastically honoured.

Amid a shower of rice, Lieut. and Mrs. Palmer took their departure soon after eleven o'clock, and proceeded on a short trip to Macao, whence they return this morning and sail by the *Nippon Maru*, *en route* for England via America. Lieut. Palmer, who is very popular in his circle, has been granted a year's leave, and at the end of that time will travel to India, accompanied by his young wife, to rejoin his regiment.

With regard to the arrival of the 1st. Manchester in Singapore, the *Straits Times* understands that it is doubtful if the battalion will go there for some considerable time—that is to say till arrangements can be made for housing a battalion of Native Infantry. There is a scheme on foot to use for that purpose a number of the huts which the Boer prisoners occupied in Ceylon, but considerable time must necessarily elapse before those huts could be shipped to Singapore and erected.

THE SERVANT QUESTION.

The Philippines seem to be suffering in much the same way as Hongkong does from the servant difficulty. Here as there the Chinese servant is as much the master of the situation as Mary Ann the housemaid or Mrs. Betsy the cook is mistress of an English domestic establishment, holding the household in the hollow of her hand. In considering the situation in the Philippines, the *Manila Times* declares for registration as a plan to put matters on a more equitable footing and it cites instances of other places in the East which have found relief from their discomforts in this fashion. But the *Times* is in stake when it includes Hongkong among those that have so found salvation. Much as Hongkong would like it, and much as the community have expressed their desire for it, registration of servants is still unhappily unknown. The Commission recently appointed to enquire into and report upon the subject recommended registration of servants and makes as a solution of the problem, but for some reason best known to itself the Government refused to sanction the proposal. And so the same unsatisfactory state of affairs prevails to-day as that which is found to be so galling by residents in the Philippines.

It is interesting to note that in Rangoon, the servant question having become such a burden, the Municipal Commissioners drafted a Bill on the subject and that it has lately become law. Appended are some of its clauses:—

(a) Rendering the registration of domestic servants compulsory, and prohibiting the employment as a domestic servant of any person who is not so registered. (b) Requiring employers and domestic servants to give such things as may be necessary or advisable for carrying out or rendering effective such registration. (c) Appointing and defining the powers and duties of Registrars and other officers for carrying out and rendering effective such registration. (d) Providing for the keeping, maintaining, inspection and production of registers and books in such manner and with such particulars as may be necessary or advisable for carrying out or rendering effective such registration. (e) Providing penalties not exceeding a fine of Rs. 250 and imprisonment either simple or rigorous for the breach of any of such rules, and (f) Generally for rendering such registration effective and complete. In such rules the words domestic servants shall mean and include servants of all descriptions usually employed in or about the house, kitchen, stables and garden of an employer.

In Colombo, Ceylon, where compulsory registration has been in successful operation for some time, the cost in connection with it amounts to about only \$6 gold per month. The number of servants registered in Colombo from January 1872 to the end of December 1901 was 33,760. The number of new registrations last year was 1,203. There is no difference made whether the employer of a domestic servant is an European or a native. The establishment, which is immediately under the control of the Superintendent of Police, consists of 1 registrar at \$385 gold per annum, 1 female clerk at \$8 gold per annum, 2 male clerks at \$60 each, 1 male clerk at \$55 and 1 office orderly at \$80 per annum.

Here is an object lesson for the Hongkong Government!

A general meeting of residents of Kuala Lumpur and district took place on 21st August at the Selangor Club, Mr. Vennin, Acting British Resident, Selangor, presiding. Mr. Vennin, in his opening remarks, recalled the fact that last year a meeting had been held to consider the matter in hand, and that it had then been decided to draw up an Enactment to regulate the labour market. A Committee had then been appointed. Mr. Joaquim had drafted an Enactment on similar lines to that which had been at work in Ceylon for the past 25 years with so much success. The outline of the scheme is as follows:—All servants will be required to be registered within a certain time of the coming into force of the Enactment; but, in consideration of the interests of natives who employ servants at a low wage, it is provided that all those who are working for less than \$8 per month shall be exempt. The servant will be required to furnish his photograph, record of

previous service, and copies of testimonials to the Registrar. Employers will be bound to make entries in the books furnished to each servant, showing a succinct record of such servant's work whilst in his or her employ, and stating clearly the reasons for his leaving, when such an event may take place. Then follows a description—for the present without details—of the penalties entailed on master and man for non-fulfilment of the various provisions. Such, in bare outline, are the details of the scheme, which it was agreed to draft and submit to the Government for consideration.

THE CERAUNOGRAPH.

NEW INSTRUMENT IN MANILA OBSERVATORY

[FROM A MANILA CORRESPONDENT.]

Since the discovery of the existence of electro-magnetic radiation emanating from disruptive discharges of electricity whose velocity in space has proved to be that of light and whose waves follow the same laws of interference, reflection, refraction and other phenomena of light, Lodge and Marconi have developed the "coherer," an instrument devised to detect the passage of electric magnetic waves. The efforts of some master-minds were soon directed to turn this new force and the coherer to some practical use. The first result was its successful application to telegraphy without wire by Marconi. The fact that disruptive discharges like lightning send out these electric ether waves, naturally led meteorologists to consider this new force and instrument in connection with electric storms. Their efforts have met with success, which leads us to expect that electro-magnetic waves and the coherer will become in time a very valuable adjunct to every meteorological and life-saving station, especially in countries which the dreadful tornado is likely to ravage. The first attempt made in the Philippines of a practical application of the electro-magnetic waves has been carried out with the most encouraging results and it is now a fact that in the Observatory lightning is harnessed, just as the wind, temperature, sunshine, and pressure have been harnessed and forced to record their own doings. The instrument has been used in the meteorological service since August 24th last. The instrument has been constructed in Kalocsa (Austro-Hungary) under the supervision of Rev. Fr. Fenyi, S.J., Director of the Kalocsa Observatory, and belongs to the type of a similar instrument devised by Rev. P. J. Schreiber, S.J., of the Kalocsa Observatory. The various parts of the instrument, all told, are: a coherer, an alarm bell, a coil with one magnetic needle, two batteries, and a recording disc. The copper collector consists of a copper horizontal insulated wire uniting the towers of the Observatory. The coherer consists simply of two steel wires adhering to each other in the form of a cross. The coherer and the coil with its magnetic needle are worked by a battery of Meidinger type (one element) with proportionate resistance. The coherer is also connected with the collector and with the earth through a lightning wire. Four Lechanché elements work the alarm bell whenever the electro-magnetic waves are received on the collector and the coherer becomes a good electric conductor and then the magnetic needle is worked by the coil and closes the Lechanché current moving the electro-magnet which registers on the disc. The vibration of the coherer through the movements of the alarm bell restores the coherer to its first condition of non-conductor, ready to be acted upon by a new electro-magnetic wave. On the disc more than 300 flashes of lightning have been registered in Manila from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on the 24th. The distance from which the flash through its electro-magnetic waves may effect the coherer has not yet been calculated, but it is supposed to be no less than some 10 miles. Experiments to increase the sensitivity of the coherer are being made, and it is expected that very soon we will be able to register a flash of lightning at 150 or 200 miles distant.

The name adopted for the new instrument is "ceraunograph", from the Greek name for lightning, after the name given by R. F. L. Benbow, S.J., Director of the Observatory at Cleveland, Ohio, the only place in the United States where similar experiments are conducted.

THE SHANGHAI TRAMWAYS SCHEME.

The Municipal Council have not yet decided on what form of electric tramways they will adopt for the Settlement, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, although the contract of the well-known British firm, the Brush Electrical Engineering Company, has been accepted. Mr. A. B. Cook, the representative of that concern, and also of the British Electric Traction Company, two businesses which practically join interests, interviewed, said that he could not state what types of tram and tramway the Council would select, but very careful consideration was being given to the whole matter, and he had no doubt but that the best choice would be made. The difficulties in the way of making electric tramways in Shanghai a success—a complete success—are very small, according to Mr. Cook. He points out how successful tramways have become in other parts of the Far East, and is of the opinion that if John Chinaman in the Straits Settlements swears by the electric tram as a locomotive, so will his brother farther north. There will also be the patronage of the entire foreign community.

The French Municipal Council do not see their way to arrange matters with the Council of this Settlement, the *N.-C. Daily News* continues, and the scheme for one unbroken system of tramways supplying the residents both north and south of the Yangkingpang creek will be unrealised. The French would have rails of different gauge and cars of different shape to our own, and the results would be junctions wherever the tram lines in the concession and the Settlement met, and a consequent inconvenience. It is matter for hope that the outcome of the negotiations on the question between the two Councils will be such as to avert necessity for the introduction of two distinct types of tramways.

It is expected that the work of construction will commence in six months' time, and by the end of 1904 the tramways should be ready for traffic.

Mr. Cook stated that the cost would be about twenty thousand added to three million dollars, and that people desirous of taking up shares would have opportunities of doing so. A business offer has already been made to him of the whole of the required money. In securing an acceptance of the contract put forward by his firm, Mr. Cook—and it is divulging no secret—had to fight against powerful local influence used on behalf of companies, notably the Westinghouse Company, and the Municipal Council has once again given an instance of its absolute impartiality and fair dealing where the interests of the public are concerned. In conclusion, it may be stated that Mr. Cook thinks business would be much more brisk in the law courts of Shanghai if, as declared the other day, the trams did the distance from Bubbling Well to the Bund in ten minutes. That would mean a speed of 18 miles an hour, not counting stops on the way to take up passengers. At home the average speed is 7 miles an hour, with streets better adapted for tramways than our own.

THE BONIN ISLANDS ERUPTION.

Further particulars of the volcanic eruption in Torijima are published in the Japanese press. According to the report of the master of the *Hiogo Maru*, the steamer on her outward voyage called at the island on the 7th ult., and after landing some thirty coolies and visitors and some cargo, the vessel went on her course. At that time there was no sign whatever to give warning of the coming eruption. The *Aisaka Maru*, a sailing vessel, passed the island about 10 a.m. on the 10th inst., when a volume of black smoke was seen rising up from the sea south of the island, and a sound like the report of a gun was heard at intervals of from three to five minutes. The vessel, however, proceeded on her course without taking the trouble to call at the island, not believing the inhabitants were in any danger. On the arrival of the vessel at another of the Bonin Island group the news of the smoke seen and detonations heard was reported to the authorities, and the *Hiogo Maru* was immediately dispatched to Torijima. It was about 10 a.m. on the 16th ult. that the *Hiogo Maru* approached the island, and it was observed that a large volume of black smoke was rising from the sea about a mile to

the south-west. The huge volumes of smoke were tossed up to a height of over six hundred feet, but then would suddenly collapse and fall in white spray into the sea. This occurred once in every four or five minutes, the sea being agitated to the extent of about a thousand feet square. Blowing her hooter, the *Hiogo Maru* approached to within about a mile of the island, and saw that the black smoke rose from the centre of the island, and that sand was being emitted. No trace was seen of any inhabitants. The shape of the island appeared to have entirely changed, only about one-tenth remaining in its former shape, as far as could be judged. One part still showed traces of vegetation, but the remainder appeared to be covered with sand. As before stated, there were about a hundred and sixty persons on the island, who resided at the base of a hill facing the sea front. The houses were situated at the foot of the hill, and the fate of those who occupied them is unknown. The commencement of the eruption is uncertain, but about 10 a.m. on the 10th ult. the *Aisaka Maru* noticed many dead fish floating about four miles away. From this it may be inferred that the eruption from the sea bottom commenced on the afternoon of the 9th ult.

A Japanese paper states that Torijima is also called Mikojima, and is named Bonafijin Island on charts. Its centre lies in 30 deg. 28 min. 26 sec. N. latitude and 140 deg. 14 min. 2 sec. E. longitude, 170 miles south-by-east from Hachijo Island. In 1887 it was leased to Mr. Tamaki, who carried on the business of guano-gathering there. It is very small, and is without springs, the inhabitants depending for water on the supply provided by rain. The island is within the zone of the Fuji volcanic region, which includes the seven islands of Izu province, Aogashima, Smith, Hozario, and the three Iwo (Sulphur) Islands, extending as far as the Marianne group. All the islands in the vicinity of Torijima have old craters upon them, though the Bonin Islands are generally free from volcanic movements. It is believed there are a number of volcanic outlets in the sea thereabouts. One a few miles north-west of Iwo Island was active until December 1889, since when eruptions have entirely ceased. Torijima is believed to be an extinct volcano. Its highest point rises 1,176 feet above the level of the sea, and there are two old craters at the top, but since the island was discovered by the Japanese no eruption has been recorded.

A party of scientific men and others have received instructions from the Japanese Government to study the causes and effects of the eruption on Torijima.

SIAMESE AFFAIRS.

THE SHAN TROUBLES.

The *Bangkok Times* says:—Politically the Shan rising has proved to be a small affair. The Muang Long miners depended more on dacoity than on mining for a living, and the administration of the district must have been a vested interest in carrying on both trades there. But though these people got no support from the general body of the people in the North, their getting out of hand not only produced a big scare, but has served to thoroughly disorganise the season's work in the teak trade, and there seems no certainty when it will be possible for work to be resumed. The affair, however, should serve one good purpose. The whole of what has happened has supplied—and we think the fact is recognised—a powerful argument in favour of a forward railway policy. It is not merely that had the railway to the North been completed the enormous difficulties of transporting the troops and their impedimenta, would have assumed small proportions; a more important fact is that easy communication reduces to such an extent the difficulty of effectively controlling the administration in distant parts of the country. In the old days the outlying Monthons largely controlled themselves, and even in the case of such a rising as that of the Shan miners, haste would not have been essential. Bangkok would simply have asserted itself in due course. But to-day Siam is one in a way it did not use to be; and the central government is responsible for the whole administration. All officials can-

not be expected to be ideal administrators; effective control is necessary, and for that the country needs to be more closely bound together by railroads. The present railway programme is, no doubt, a very considerable undertaking when everything is paid for out of current revenue. But for work of that kind a loan is more than justified. The line to the North is one that should be pushed on with considerably faster than the present programme allows of.

In the same paper the following explanation is given of the recent trouble with the Shans:—Letters have now been received from the North by an European firm in Bangkok giving a clear explanation of the origin and importance of the Shan rising. The writer is an European of experience, and we believe his explanation may be thoroughly relied upon. The rising, it appears, was not in any way premeditated, nor has it had, what was greatly feared here, any support from the Chaos or from the general body of the people. As has already been seen in the Government proclamation to the people of Bangkok, the sapphire mines at Muang Long have been worked entirely by Shans. These mines do not seem to be of great value, and the Shan miners were given to fill up their spare time with dacoity. They became such a nuisance in the district that orders were given to close the mines. Not unnaturally this crowd of rough and practically criminal characters objected. A force of about a corporal's guard was sent from Lakon Lampang to clear them out, and meeting with resistance promptly retired back to Lakon. The Shans amazed at their easy victory over the forces of the Government were carried away and did what had never occurred to them before to do. There seems some reason to believe that if the Lakon authorities had acted more wisely there would never have been any rising at all. But the Shans jumped to the conclusion that the Government was unable to resist them, and after beating off the force sent against them made their attack on Muang Phrae. There they met with no resistance, and their success on the one hand caused the most alarming rumours to spread throughout the country, and on the other brought them the support of all the "bad bats" of the district. Then followed the attack on Lakon where fighting went on in the streets, but where they were ultimately beaten off. On that occasion very few of the Shans of Lakon joined the insurgents or gave them any support. Since then the insurgents have been melting away, alarmed at the size of the force sent against them from the South. In the attack on Lakon an European concentration camp was formed in the three houses of the Forest Department, Mr. Anderson of the Borneo Company, Ltd., and Mr. L. T. Leonowens. These houses stand near one another and there the women and children were gathered and the specie stored. No attack was made on them.

THE SIAMESE IN KELANTAN.

The following is the report of the *Singapore Free Press*'s Special Commissioner, who has just paid a visit to Siamese Malaya:—

Affairs in Kelantan are to all appearances fast approaching a crisis, the result of which at present hangs in the balance. It is sufficient however to say that on the decision which the British Foreign Office arrives at during the next few weeks, hangs the future of British trade and prestige in this part of the world. Much has been written in the Straits papers with regard to Kelantan, Patani, and other States up here, but writing as I am at the present moment from the capital of the first mentioned State, I shall go no further than endeavour to show clearly how imminent the danger to our interests is in Kelantan.

Before coming to the actual facts, one must try and impress the full meaning of any movement which may take place here. An extended journey up the Kelantan river and the Lebuh has proved to me with absolute certainty the richness of this, quite one of the richest and largest of the States morally independent of Siam. Of her detailed resources I shall have more to say in subsequent articles, but I would mention there is a valuable export of copra and cattle to Singapore, and the country itself is suited, and is indeed under native cultivation of paddy, a very large production, tobacco, Indian corn, and other crops.

So far I have dealt solely with native produce which, whilst being an important factor, is as

allowed itself to be misled as to the real facts in the case of the *s.s. Laisang*. If Mr. Figg is correct in his assumption that the second vessel referred to by the anonymous writer in the *Daily Press* was the *s.s. De Witte* the destructive criticism aimed by the Chamber at the Hongkong Observatory would appear entirely to lack the foundation of fact.

3. Mr. Figg explains why the Hongkong Observatory declines to issue storm-warnings received from institutions elsewhere, and why it is not necessary to receive weather observations from the Sicawei Observatory; and shows that the Hongkong Observatory has been largely instrumental in obtaining observations from various sources in order to improve its forecasts. He adds that the storm-warnings of the Hongkong Observatory are issued at the earliest possible moment consistently with the observations received.

4. After careful consideration His Excellency is of opinion that the Hongkong Observatory cannot be made responsible for the storm-warnings of other institutions, and that having regard to Sicawei's position within a chain of stations from which the Hongkong Observatory receives observations it would serve no useful purpose for observations to be also received from the Sicawei Observatory.

5. His Excellency has also arrived at the conclusion that an alteration in the Hongkong system of signalling storms is not desirable, and that a system of flag signals to convey weather information is for the reasons indicated by Mr. Figg not suited to local conditions, and owing to the absence of observing stations to the west and south-west of Hongkong might at times be very misleading.

6. But His Excellency finds that the existing system of issuing weather information is capable of improvement, and has given directions by which it is hoped that the China Coast Meteorological Register issued by the Hongkong Observatory may be more quickly and more widely distributed, and has authorised arrangements by which the remarks that appear at the foot of the Register, will in special cases when the Director of the Observatory considers it useful and desirable, be circulated by express to shipping firms and others. I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

The SECRETARY,

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

MEMORANDUM BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE OBSERVATORY, OF THE 24TH JULY, 1902.

With regard to paragraph 1, I wish to point out that the first warning of the typhoon in question was issued from this Observatory on August, 1st, 11.5 a.m. A warning from Manila dated August, 1st, 1 p.m., was received here the same day. In the Foochow monthly weather reports under date August 1st, I find the following warning, received from Sicawei, entered:—"Typhoon S.E. of Loochoos going N.W." It is thus seen that warning was received at that port from Sicawei also on the 1st.

As a matter of fact two warnings with reference to this typhoon were received at Hongkong Observatory from Sicawei at 8.10 a.m. on the 4th. They were as follows:—"3rd. 12 a.m. typhoon N. of the Formosa Channel going N. W." and, "3rd. 4 p.m. typhoon on land near Foochow going N.W."

On referring to the monthly weather report of the Hongkong Observatory herewith enclosed, it will be noticed that similar information was issued here 24 hours earlier and 5 hours earlier respectively.

It would appear that the Chamber of Commerce has been misled by the statements of an anonymous writer in the *Daily Press*, and it is to be regretted that they did not endeavour to verify the said statements. On the contrary I find that the *s.s. Laisang* left Hongkong on July 30th about 5 p.m., two days before the first warning was issued from Hongkong Observatory and two days before a similar warning was received from Sicawei at Foochow. Such a ship could not possibly be benefited by the information possessed at time of her departure, by either of the Observatories.

The *s.s. De Witte*, which is doubtless the vessel referred to in paragraph 1 as having foundered in consequence of insufficient warning from this Observatory, was really on a voyage

from Moji, Japan, to Singapore, and met the typhoon on her southward voyage.

Sicawei obtains its typhoon warnings from information furnished by a chain of stations stretching from Japan through the Loochoo Islands to Formosa, as shown in the accompanying map, and the whole of the information from every one of these stations is also received telegraphically by the Hongkong Observatory daily. It is the actual observations that are required by the forecaster, not expressions of opinion by others of the weather conditions likely to prevail.

This Observatory cannot be made responsible for the issue of storm-warnings received in the Colony from institutions elsewhere. Such publication on our part would naturally imply agreement therewith and frequently this does not exist, and this Observatory ought not to be placed in the false position of being obliged to publish the warnings of others, without comment and which it might fully believe to be erroneous. I have little hesitation in saying that great confusion would result at all times, and this might on occasion lead to disaster.

The important station in the Shanghai district is Gutzlaff lighthouse from which we receive observations. Shanghai could be dispensed with altogether, but the Imperial Maritime Customs there forwarded observations to Hongkong, I believe, before this Observatory started work in 1884, and they have continued to do so ever since. The more observing stations the better as long as they are judiciously distributed, but three observing stations in the immediate neighbourhood of each other are quite unnecessary, and it is far more important that the Cable Companies, on whom we are absolutely dependent, and who are desirous of limiting rather than of extending this service, should be asked to send us observations from a district at present unrepresented, such as Weihaiwei, than that they should be asked to do so from one already sufficiently served.

This Observatory is only too glad to avail itself of all the information obtainable for the purpose of its weather service, and has continually sought to obtain, and has in fact been largely instrumental in obtaining, observations from various sources in order to improve the forecasts. The Jesuit institutions in Sicawei and Manila have ultimately benefited by these extensions.

Storm-warnings are always issued at the earliest possible moment consistently with the observations received. Sundays or holidays making no difference, the forecasts being posted, as usual, on the notice boards.

Weather information is published daily in the China Coast Meteorological Register. The information that a typhoon exists in the vicinity of any station is not definitely telegraphed to us, but is shown by the observations made at such station, and is thus at the disposal of anybody who chooses to look at the Register. I suggest that more copies of the Register be printed and that it be more widely distributed, say to all shipping firms and others to whom it is thought it may be useful. Information issued at other hours and now posted on the notice boards can be printed and circulated in the form of expresses.

But it is here necessary to point out that the time of issue of the C. C. M. R. and storm-warnings depends on the early or late arrival of the observations telegraphed to us by the Cable Companies i.e., on causes absolutely beyond the control of the Observatory.

The last paragraph of the letter points out the pressing necessity for a change in the system of signalling storms in Hongkong. I have to call your attention to a letter from the Chamber of Commerce dated 23rd December, 1897 (in C.S.O. No. 3,073 of 1897), in which the following remarks occur:—"In the interests of the shipping community my Committee would respectfully suggest an early return to the system of meteorological signals in use from January 1884 to December 1896. Those signals having been in use for 13 years were becoming more and more understood and rightly interpreted by the boat and seafaring community, as is always the case the Committee believe when a system of signalling is introduced. They likewise convey to masters of ships intimation of the state of the weather at a distance on the voyages on which they were about to sail."

With the above expression of opinion, I most emphatically agree. The interests of the boat population must be considered as well as that of others. The simplest system in that case is certainly the best, and the adoption of any complicated or extensive system of flag signals, often invisible in the calm weather usually preceding typhoons, such as used in Shanghai, would in my opinion, be a step in the wrong direction. It seems strange that the Chamber should adopt its present attitude and seek to alter a system of signalling typhoons—in use now for 19 years—which in 1898 they admitted had worked successfully in the past.

A flag signal code to be useful must, in my opinion, be short and give definite information. The indications of the existence of a depression are often of such a character as to make the hoisting of a signal conveying definite information quite unjustifiable. Such information indicating the locating and movements of typhoons far out at sea, or far away from any observing station must necessarily be vague and may be misleading, because the data available for forecasting purposes is quite insufficient. But a flag signal would give the information in a definite form, unless a very extensive and therefore impracticable code were adopted.

Again flag signals would frequently have to be hoisted in calm weather, in which case they would often be unreadable by masters of vessels.

For these reasons I am of opinion that flag signals are not suited to local requirements, and further a satisfactory code for conveying meteorological information in the form necessary, does not exist. While desirous of meeting, as far as possible, the wishes of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I respectfully submit that in a matter of this kind, involving as it does responsibility, something must be left to the discretion of the forecaster.

F. G. FIGG.

24th July, 1902.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
23rd August, 1902.

SIR.—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo replying to this Chamber's letter of the 4th idem, and transmitting copy of memorandum and enclosures from Mr. Figg, the Acting Director of the Hongkong Observatory.

2. If the Chamber has in any way been misled with reference to the facts in the cases of the steamer *Laisan* and *De Witte*, the Committee desire to express their regret, but while accepting the statement of Mr. Figg in this regard, I am to point out that the letter in the *Daily Press* referred to was accepted by this Chamber as the expression of what had frequently been brought to its notice from various quarters of the dissatisfaction, rightly or wrongly entertained by mariners frequenting this port, with the storm warnings issued by the Hongkong Observatory.

3. Mr. Figg points to the fact that in 1897 this Chamber suggested and secured a return to the system of meteorological signals in use from January, 1884, to December, 1896, as a proof that they were satisfied with that system, whereas, as a matter of fact, they simply advocated a return to that system as being simpler and more readily understood by the boating population than that in use at the time. While thankfully acknowledging that this system has been of much service, the Chamber never meant, as Mr. Figg seems to imply, that it was not susceptible of improvement and it was with the object of composing some measures of further improvement that the more recent representations of the Committee were mainly directed. This Chamber has now for many years, commencing in 1889, endeavoured to secure improvement in the system of storm warnings, the meteorological communications with other ports and the rapid dissemination of weather forecasts.

4. The Committee hail with much satisfaction the statement in paragraph 6 of your despatch, to the effect that His Excellency finds "that the system of issuing weather information is capable of improvement and has given directions by which it is hoped that the China coast Meteorological Register issued by the Hongkong Observatory may be more quickly and widely distributed," and recognise the value of the change proposed, a step in the right

[September 8, 1902.]

direction which cannot fail to prove of material benefit to shipping.

5. They would, however, at the same time again respectfully urge upon the Government that even by the prompt issue of expresses there are occasions when such intelligence is too tardily distributed, too late to be of service to the maritime population, whereas, by a code of flag signals, departing vessels might be warned in time instead of being allowed to sail into dangers. Not only are the expresses not sufficiently widely distributed, but the mere delay in printing and circulation is often sufficient to admit of ships leaving when they should continue in shelter.

6. The remarks of Mr. Figg on a flag signal code, to the effect that unless a very extensive and therefore impracticable code were adopted it could not give the information in a definite form, are noted, but it is within the knowledge of the Committee that such a code has for a number of years been in daily use in Shanghai, where it has given the greatest satisfaction to shipmasters frequenting the port. The Committee further venture to think that the Government will, on examination of the accompanying copy of this code, together with the forms of bulletins issued by the Sicawei Observatory, admit that the system adopted at that port of making general the various weather reports is in advance of that in force here, and which the Chamber is justifiably anxious to see improved.

The adoption of a flag signal service, which would be principally for the use of the foreign shipping in harbour, need not necessitate the abolition of the present drum, cone, and ball signals shewn by H.M.S. Tamar for the benefit of native shipping and craft.

Certain improvements in the Sicawei code are now being effected and are expected to be published by the middle of September and to come into force on 1st November next. The effect of these will be that without making any material change in the present indications more precise particulars can be given about storms. It may be worth mentioning that the code has been generally adopted by the German, Russian, and Chinese Governments along the coast of China.

7. With regard to paragraphs 4 and 5 of your letter, the Committee respectfully submit that they never suggested that the Hongkong Observatory should be made responsible for the storm warnings of other institutions, but they cannot help feeling that the observations made at Sicawei must surely furnish more accurate data than can be supplied by a possibly untrained though doubtless intelligent observer at any of the coast stations, such as Gutzlaff. Moreover, it seems to the Committee lamentable that there should be a want of reciprocity between the Hongkong and other observatories, and they find it difficult to resist the conclusion that the absence of sympathetic and friendly relations with such an institution as the Sicawei Observatory is calculated to limit the usefulness of both institutions.

8. In conclusion, my Committee wish to disclaim any wish to either suggest impracticable schemes or any desire to hamper the Director of the Observatory in making his forecasts; they are simply animated by the wish to secure the earliest and widest possible dissemination of warnings of the approach of storms, to the end that the disasters afloat may be averted when possible.—I have the honour to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant,

A. R. LOWE,
Secretary.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce
16th August, 1902.

SIR.—I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 31st ultimo, enclosing report of the Acting Director of the Kowloon Observatory, on the subject of storm warnings issued in this Colony, and to state that the matter is now engaging the attention of the Committee of this Chamber, who will address you again on this matter shortly.

A letter, dated Swatow, 4th instant, from the masters of the steamers *Haiching* and *Decima*, and supported by the masters of six other steamers, complaining of the inadequacy of the storm warnings issued in Hongkong, has been received by this Chamber.

The Committee are unable, of course, to vouch for the accuracy of the statements made in this letter, but, as the letter bears on the subject of the representations made in this Chamber's letter to you of 4th ultimo, and comes from practical men, my Committee deem it of sufficient importance to forward same on to you at once.

I, accordingly, have the honour to hand you a copy herewith, and my Committee wish to express the hope that you will cause the matter of the complaint made by the signatories to be carefully investigated.—I have the honour to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant,

A. R. LOWE,
Secretary.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Swatow, 4th August, 1902.

SIR.—We, the undersigned, who have passed through the recent typhoon between Hongkong and Swatow, wish to bring to your notice in the strongest possible manner the inadequate and misleading system of storm warnings in the port of Hongkong. Relying on the weather forecast and the absence of storm warnings we left Hongkong for Swatow at 7 p.m. on Friday, 1st August, and met the typhoon soon after midnight.

We, and I believe the great majority of shipmasters, think the shipping should have a full notice of weather changes.

The present system of forecasts is little better than a snare and a delusion.—We are Sir, yours faithfully,

HANS-SCHLAIER,
Master, Ger. str. *Decima*.
A. C. HODGINS,
Master, Brit. str. *Haiching*.

Supported by

G. PARKINSON,
Master, Brit. str. *Laertes*.
SPENCER WILDE,
Master, Brit. str. *Hangsang*.
W. PALMER-BAKER,
Master, Brit. str. *Taksang*.
J. DEWUR,
Master, Brit. str. *Tungchow*.
F. HOPKINS,
Master, Brit. str. *Chunking*.
C. GOSWITCH,
Master, Ger. str. *Dagmar*.

THE SECRETARY,
Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
26th August, 1901.

SIR.—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th inst., in which you enclosed copy of a letter, dated Swatow the 4th instant, from the masters of the s.s. *Haiching* and s.s. *Decima* and supported by the signatures of the masters of six other steamers, complaining of the inadequacy of the storm warnings in Hongkong, stating that the writers (apparently the masters of the s.s. *Haiching* and *Decima*), "relying on the weather forecast and the absence of storm warning", left Hongkong for Swatow at 7 p.m. on Friday, the 1st of August, and met the typhoon soon after midnight."

2. In reply I am to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a report from the Acting Director of the Observatory, with its enclosures, comprising copies of the remarks attached to the usual China Coast Meteorological Register issued by Mr. Figg on the 31st ultimo and 1st instant; of two Expresses containing special typhoon warnings issued on the same dates before noon, and of a letter from one of the writers of the letter enclosed in your letter under acknowledgment

3. These documents prove conclusively that the captains of the s.s. *Haiching* and *Decima* left this port on the evening of the 1st instant in spite of weather forecasts published not only in the ordinary way but in the form of typhoon warnings, which were more than ample to warn them of the risk they ran.

4. I am to request that in justice to the Acting Director of the Observatory and to this Government you will give to this letter and its enclosures the same publicity that you have already given to the letter of the masters of the steamships *Haiching* and *Decima*.—I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

THE SECRETARY, Chamber of Commerce.

CCPY OF THE REPORT BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE OBSERVATORY.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—With reference to the letter of the Chamber of Commerce dated the 16th instant and its enclosure. I attach the storm-warnings issued prior to the departure of the steamships *Decima* and *Haiching*.

As the masters of these vessels admit receiving this information—it is incorporated as usual in the weather forecasts of July 31st and August 1st (see C.C.M.R. attached) it would appear that they left this port on 1st August for Swatow with full knowledge that a typhoon existed to the eastward and that it was likely to approach the southern entrance of the Formosa Channel about 18 hours after their departure.

The accompanying letter from the captain of the *Haiching* throws some light on his own action and on that of the captain of the *Decima*. It would appear that the latter vessel was hove to off Chelang Point about midnight of the 1st and there quietly awaited the arrival of the centre of the typhoon, which must have passed over her about 15 hours later, say at 3.00 p.m. on the 2nd.

The log of the *Haiching*, whose captain appears to me to have acted in a more seamanlike manner, shows that he put back to Bias Bay for shelter, that he experienced no more than a fresh breeze until 10 a.m. on the 2nd, and that the centre did not reach the neighbourhood of his ship until 7.30 p.m. the same evening.

I give these facts in contravention of the statement in the letter that the typhoon was met by them at midnight on August 1st.

The fact is simply that both ships left this port in spite of the forecasts issued and in the face of typhoon warnings separately published and widely distributed hours before their departure, and the risk they ran must have been well known to their respective captains.

F. G. FIGG.

22nd August, 1902.

EXTRACTS FROM CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

On the 31st at 11.15 a.m. The barometer is still falling over the Phillipines owing to the depression to the eastward of Luzon. The barometer has risen over the S. coast of China, fallen in N.W. Japan, the northern depression having approached the northern islands. Moderate S.E. and F. winds on the China coast.

Forecast:—E. or variable winds, light; fair.

F. G. FIGG,
Acting Director.

Hongkong Observatory,
Thursday, 3rd July, 1902.

On the 1st at 11.50 a.m. The typhoon is probably situated to the east of the Balingtang Channel. It appears to be moving towards north-west. Wind probably freshening from north-east in the Formosa Channel. Barometer falling in S. China, rising over the Southern Phillipines. Pressure still low over the N. part of the Sea of Japan. Reports from N. China and Formosa not yet received. Forecast:—N. winds, moderate; fair.

F. G. FIGG,
Acting Director.

Hongkong Observatory,
Friday, 1st August, 1902.

EXPRESS.—TYphoon WARNING.
Hongkong Observatory, 31st July, 11.15 a.m. The barometer is still falling over the Phillipines owing to the depression to the eastward of Luzon.

F. G. FIGG.

31st July, 1902.

EXPRESS.—TYphoon WARNING.
Hongkong Observatory, 1st August, 11.50 a.m. The typhoon is probably situated to the east of the Balingtang Channel. It appears to be moving towards north-west. Wind probably freshening from north-east in the Formosa Channel.

F. G. FIGG.

1st August, 1902.

FROM CAPTAIN A.C. HODGINS, S.S. "HAICHING,"
TO THE DIRECTOR, HONGKONG METEOROLOGICAL STATION.

Swatow, 5th August, 1902.
DEAR SIR,—In sending my log of the recent

far as British affairs are concerned not the most important. There is at present working here the Duff Syndicate, whose primary business is gold-seeking, and whose concession has been granted by the Rajah, whose documents have been officially acknowledged as valid by the Siamese and British Governments. The importance of that acknowledgment cannot be overestimated, and is a point which must be remembered in all subsequent dealings in this matter. This Syndicate is well on the way to full work at present and with every prospect of success, whilst negotiations are proceeding for another large Syndicate and if the anticipated success follows these ventures there will be a vast field for British enterprise. Bearing in mind these facts and always keeping in view the knowledge that practically the whole export trade of Kelantan and a large proportion of the import trade is with Singapore, I wish to direct attention to clause XII of the Anglo-Siamese Treaty of 1826 renewed in 1857. This clause was one of those which remained from the original treaty and reads as follows:

"Siam shall not go and obstruct or interrupt commerce in the States of Tringano or Calautan. English merchants and subjects shall have trade and intercourse in future with the same facility and freedom as they have heretofore had, and the English shall not go and molest, attack or disturb those States upon any pretence whatever."

An official Government communication which the writer has seen states that that treaty was still in force at the close of 1901 and is presumably so now.

In the face of that article Siam has taken the following course of action. Pressure has been put from Bangkok on the Rajah of Kelantan to injure British trade in the following way. Instructions were forwarded from the Siamese capital to the Rajah that he was in future to abolish absolutely all import duties on articles arriving from Bangkok and all export duties on articles sent from Kelantan to Bangkok. This means, as the veriest pupil in such matters can see, a direct and very serious blow to British trade between Kelantan and Singapore. It is serious now but it means even more serious harm to any growing up of British commercial undertakings in the future, and as I have pointed out such undertakings are making a remarkably good start just now. It will be argued by the pro-Siamese that this interpretation is unfair, inasmuch as Singapore being a free port, merchants can put their goods into that port at cheaper rates than they can into Bangkok. But the argument shows its absolute falsity in every line and simply means that Bangkok, unable to obtain trade by open competition, is taking measures to secure that trade which are a direct, and I unhesitatingly say an intentionally direct, blow at British trade, and one which will stifle effectively Kelantan trade.

This action cannot possibly be construed as other than a direct violation of clause XII. If it is doubted whether such a step can have been taken I can only say that the Det Oestasiatsch Co.'s ships *Boribat* and *Chakrabhong*, coming from Bangkok arrived at Kuala Kelantan and refused to pay any import duties on any of their stuff, and that this information was conveyed to the Rajah, who was helpless for lack of support against a stronger Power, and since to the British Government.

There is one other instance of Siamese opposition to British interests which may be quoted here, and which shows only too clearly how the general spirit of aggressiveness has permeated through all the classes of Siamese officialdom. Only last week four Malays in the employ of the Duff Syndicate were in the market at Kuala Kelantan, and were set upon by some of the sailors from the Siamese gunboat in port. These sailors were in mufti but carried parangs and krisses. They set upon the Malays and knocked one of them down. Fortunately there were a number of Chinese and Malays present and the Siamese finding the crowd too much for them had to give way. The matter was reported at once to the Rajah and a letter was sent to the Rajah at Kota Bahru and the commander of the gunboat. Some hours later Mr. Duff went to the Kot and having sent for the Siamese official told him in the Rajah's presence that the Syndicate was in Kelantan for peaceful purposes and under the Rajah's rule, but that if any of its men were hurt in a

row with armed Siamese, his men would, with the Rajah's permission, be armed and for any trouble that ensued the Siamese would be held accountable. To these representations no reply has been received. The offence of the Siamese is all the more flagrant when one considers that it is an established law in Kelantan that no one shall carry arms about with them.

These are but one or two instances of the Siamese interpretation of the wording of clause XII, and if it be asked why the Rajah does not take strong measures in the matter or seek the help of the English, the answer is, that little as the ordinary reader may believe it, the Rajah of Kelantan thoroughly believes that if he takes any such steps he will meet with the fate which befell the Rajah of Patani, and it is discouraging but none the less true to say that all here, whether European or Malay who are qualified by experience to judge, implicitly believe the same thing.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 30th August.

GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES.

It is said that the new provincial Governor Lee Hing-yui is expected to arrive at Canton within ten days; so orders have been given to the Nam Hoi and Punyiu magistrates to make preparations to receive him. When he comes he will take over the seals of the present provincial governor, H. E. Tak Sow, while the latter will then take over the seals of office from H. E. Tao Mu as acting Viceroy. Tao Mu will then be able to leave his post.

THE CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

Some of the staff of the Canton and Hankow Railway Company have arrived and the Superintendent of Works, Mr. Grey, an American, and his interpreter Leung Sun-chee are also expected here shortly from Shanghai.

FOREIGNERS IN THE INTERIOR.

It is said that the Viceroy has received official instructions from Peking to communicate to the officials of the different districts that whenever any missionary or other foreigner travels under passport into the interior he has to make arrangements to engage either coolies, boats or carriages, and the Chinese officials are not to be responsible for the same.

A MILITARY TROUBLE.

In consequence of the frequent disturbances caused by local banditti in Waichow the Viceroy sent soldiers of the Hei Shing regiments to suppress them. However, on account of a quarrel between some soldiers, the two regiments fought among themselves, and the officers had to intervene to suppress the disturbance.

GUN-RUNNING CATTLE-DEALERS.

Among other adventurers, smugglers, and merchants who for the sake of gain supply arms to the rebels in Kwangsi, it is ascertained that the cattle-dealers also, who carry arms for self-protection, are combining this same disloyal business with their lawful trade. The Viceroy has in consequence given orders to have the names taken of all the cattle-dealers who convey cattle from Kwangtung to Kwangsi for sale, and the number of the arms they carry registered. In case they are found to have anything to do with the rebels they are to be severely punished.

NEW MILITARY INSTRUCTORS FOR WHAMPOA.

Two Japanese military instructors, and also two Chinese who have learnt military drill for some time in Japan, have been engaged to give military instruction and teach drill to the Chinese students in the military school in Whampoa. The other day they had an interview with the Viceroy.

The local agents of the Nippon Yusen Kai-sha informed us on the 4th inst. that they were in receipt of telegraphic advices from Japan stating that the s.s. *Riojun Maru*, which left Hongkong on the 25th ult. bound for Seattle (Wash.) via ports, grounded near Quelpart Island on the 2nd inst., while on the voyage from Shanghai to Moji, but has since refloated and has put in at Port Hamilton, whether assistance is being sent. The cargo, mails, and passengers are reported safe.

PAKHOI.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Pakhoi, 3rd August.

A WASTE OF MUSCLE.

A serious fracas took place on the evening of the 18th instant about 9 o'clock, between the boatmen in the employ of the I. M. Customs and a few native soldiers from a picket or guard-house near the German Mission. It may as well be mentioned that the Chinese soldiery are always looked upon by the other natives as their natural enemy. The fact that firearms were brought into play in the latter part of the quarrel has added more importance to the fray, in which, curiously enough, two of the soldiers were wounded by one of their own comrades. The affair began very simply. A coolie employed at the German Mission was found long after dusk in the kitchen of one of the Customs boatmen, who has a wife living with him. The boatman naturally seized the intruder at once, and in the darkness took the miscreant for a thief, but soon after recognised him to be a coolie in the foreigners' employ, when his jealousy got the better of him. Fearing complications if he caused him any bodily harm, the boatman prudently took the coolie by the queue to convey him to the presence of the principal of the Mission to lay a complaint, the prisoner struggling and howling all the way. On passing the guardhouse, the officer in charge of the station—who is a recent convert to the German Mission—came to the rescue of the coolie. A general mêlée then ensued between the soldiers and the Customs boatmen. The noise attracted the attention of two distinguished officers of the Customs, who were living near by, through whose efforts the fight was suspended, by which time a number of sorrowful faces, twisted jaws, swollen eyes, and bleeding noses were in evidence as the result of the fierce hand-to-hand contest. A soldier from the other station having been informed of the quarrel then arrived upon the scene, and without any ado fired into the crowd and wounded two of his own comrades in the shoulder. This man was soon disarmed and arrested, and together with the coolie and the two wounded soldiers was sent to the local magistrate to be dealt with. The wounded men were afterwards sent to the Church Missionary Hospital for treatment.

THE HEALTH OF THE PORT.

The prevalent disease—cholera—continues, but with less vigour. The junk and boat populations seem to be the chief objects of its attention just now. It is impossible to ascertain the rate of mortality, for it is nobody's business here to keep such a record. One will have only to guess by the number of coffins seen moving about in town and the business-like attitude of the coffin-shops, which are almost depleted of their stocks. The disease should be more correctly called choleraic diarrhoea, as in some cases only it is accompanied by vomiting. The disease is expected to disappear with the advent of the north-east monsoon in a fortnight. The foreigners generally enjoy good health.

DEARTH OF RICE.

Notwithstanding the continuous importation of this article recently from Hongkong and Haiphong, the price is still enhanced. Siam white is fetching \$6.30 per picul, while the coarsest quality is selling at \$4.90 to \$4.95.

Captain S. Fujiki of the s.s. *Kachi-ate Maru* which arrived in Hongkong on the 4th inst. with a cargo of coal consigned to the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, reports having been in a typhoon on the voyage from Japan. The steamer left Karatsu on the 29th inst. On the 30th she encountered the typhoon off Haishan Li-hse, the barometer falling gradually and the wind veering round from N.E. to westward. On the 1st inst. the barometer had fallen to 29.23 deg.; the wind force was 10 miles, and the ship laboured heavily and was swept continuously by heavy seas. She was hove-to for twelve hours during the height of the storm, but the weather abated later in the day and the steamer was able to resume her voyage.

FOOCHOW.

Foochow, 31st August.

The Commissioner of Customs has issued the following notification:—"The quarantine inspection of vessels arriving from the Southern, the Formosan and the Northern ports, which was proclaimed in Customs Notifications No. 142 and No. 143 of date 20th June and 3rd July respectively will cease after this day. In future vessels are to be governed as regards quarantine by the 9th of the standing Harbour Regulations of June 1900, which reads as follows:—9. A vessel arriving with a contagious disease on board shall not come nearer than one mile below the lower limit of the Harbour, shall fly at the fore a yellow flag, and shall not allow any one to disembark or come on board without permission from the Harbour Master's office."

H.I.G. cruiser *Schwalbe* arrived at Pagoda on the 26th inst.

A "snipe-shooting" (double rise) competition for a prize presented by "A Friend" took place on Green Island last Wednesday. No less than twelve competitors faced the traps, a larger number than we have seen for a long time. Mr. Howell again scored a victory, shooting in fine form. The prize was handed to him by one of the three ladies present with a few charming words of congratulation. Mr. Gittings retired at the fifth round. Mr. Ross kindly undertook the office of scorer.

Kuliang.—The question has been asked, "How are they going to get the captured tigress out of the pit in which she is confined, alive?" and no satisfactory answer having been given, it will be interesting to some to know that a second pit is being dug close beside the old one. Into this an iron cage is to be lowered, and after breaking down the wall between the pits, the animal is to be enticed into it. This is expected to be successful. We learn that three foreign sportsmen were on the watch on Tuesday night for the tiger which had been seen by natives hunting for its mate. Their guide had arranged their place of concealment lower down the gully leading to the imprisoned tigress than he should have done and as a consequence the noble beast crossed behind instead of in front of their shelter, placing himself to leeward of the breeze blowing up the gully at the time; and, catching scent of the enemy, he roared aloud. This was faintly responded to by the tigress in the pit, as were also his repeated roars as he beat a retreat. It appears that the shelter was so constructed that the sportsmen could not fire on any object behind them without leaving it, and this they did not do in the expectation of the beast continuing his descent and passing in front of them. The first intimation they had of the approach of the beast was at 2 a.m. when the heavy footfalls of the animal at a trotting pace put them on the alert. The trot was reduced to a walk, then there was a halt and then the first roar, followed by the retreat. Undaunted by this failure these keen sportsmen are going to make another attempt immediately.

There is a story current at Kuliang about a tiger in some other part of the province giving trouble. It is said that a couple of missionaries, a man and his wife, had been worried by a tiger prowling nightly around their house and they were determined to get rid of it. To this end they, one night, tied a cow up in the back yard and a dog in the front of the house, then they armed themselves with guns and kept watch. The tiger appeared, the missionary fired and killed the cow. The wife rushed to see what had happened and in her absence the tiger ate the dog.—*Foochow Echo*.

According to a Peking despatch to Shanghai, Grand Councillor Chu Hung-Chi and Vice-President Hu Yu-fen went together to see the Russian Minister on the 19th ult. asking when Russia would hand back the Chinese Railways outside the Great Wall of China. In reply, M. Lessar said that he was not in a position to fix a date for the purpose, as mounted brigandage was still rampant in the vicinity of the branch lines of the Railway.

VLADIVOSTOCK.

[FROM A JAPANESE CORRESPONDENT]

A COMMERCIAL CRISIS.

One of the most significant features of Russia's territory in East Asia is the marvellous progress which the trade of Vladivostock has made of late years. Twenty odd years ago, when the Imperial Japanese Commercial Agency was first established there, the office had no rival in the town in its appearance and dimensions. To-day the building, however, gives place to so many edifices which mark the prosperity of the city that it becomes difficult even to discover its location. In 1892, the city imported goods amounting to 3,976,200 pood (1 pood=36 Eng. lbs) and exported 447,000; while in 1900 the amount of imports had increased to 21,760,955 pood and of exports to 2,221,946, showing an increase in eight years of 447 per cent. in imports, and of 397 per cent. in exports. Now that the construction of the Trans-Siberian Railway is completed and new lines of steamship service connecting several places and this port have been opened, the future of Vladivostock may be imagined without difficulty. While admitting the promising future of the city, however, it will be noticed that it is now experiencing some economic difficulty. Since the beginning of this year not a few Russian merchants have closed business, and some have become bankrupt. Circumstances suggest that the present depression may continue for some time to come.

It is quite evident that the new Customs tariff system, applicable to the goods imported through ports on the Eastern coast, which went into operation last year, is the principal cause of the present economic disturbance. That the import trade of the city lost its activity from this cause is also very evident from the figures of goods imported in the last year, which show an increase of 656,754 pood when compared with those of 1900. Beside the cause above mentioned, several other circumstances are worthy of consideration. On the one hand, the demand for labour considerably decreased after the completion of the railway and other works which have employed large numbers for so many years past, and on the other hand the steps taken by the Russo-Chinese Bank in order to absorb capital from the money market undoubtedly played not a small part in the present crisis. Another circumstance none the less significant as a cause was the free trade arrangement on the frontier between Russian territory in Asia and China. Article 1 of the Treaty signed in the Russian capital in 1881 provides in substance that the subjects of the high contracting parties—namely, Russia and China—are permitted to engage in free trade within an area extending fifty versts (about thirty-three miles) from the respective frontiers of the two countries. It need scarcely be pointed out that the Vladivostock market cannot but be seriously affected if a trade on these lines should be developed on a large scale, as has been the case of recent years, at the same time that goods imported into Vladivostock are subjected to heavy taxes. In face of the injury which the city has sustained, the Vladivostock Chamber of Commerce presented a memorial to the Government in February last, in which it compared the state of trade in Vladivostock and on the frontier, and asked that measures be taken to remove the obstacles to the economic development of the port. The appeal asks, among other things, for the revision of the clause in the Treaty above referred to so as to put a limit to free trade on the frontier.

The operation of the Customs tariff upon goods imported through ports on the Japan Sea—a tariff which proved tantamount to prohibiting the import of untaxed goods—had good reason from Russian point of view. It assisted the agricultural and industrial progress of Siberia and protected its products. But how can such a principle be justified, when the arrangement concerning the frontier trade remains unaltered, and the smuggling of foreign-made goods becomes more and more prevalent? The Russian Government is justly criticised when it is said that the Government closes the front gate while leaving the back door open. The readjustment of the commercial conditions of this port is not merely a local

matter, but one of international importance. It is to be hoped that the day is not far distant when earnest efforts will be made by the Russian Government to deal with the question to which I have here directed attention.—*Kobe Chronicle*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

UNDESIRABLES AND HIGHWAY ROBBERIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 3rd September.

SIR,—How is it that we have had so many highway robberies of late, in broad daylight? The answer is very simple. Owing to the large number of undesirables residing in the Colony. And why have we so many of these creatures in our midst? Simply because absolutely nothing is done to prevent them visiting this happy hunting ground in unlimited numbers. They are as free to land and reside here as the migrating snipe is to locate himself in a paddy-field, and their prospects are ever so much brighter, for while the harmless migrant is liable to be shot at any moment the worst that can happen to them is to find themselves if they come to grief in palatial quarters with a menu vastly superior to the one they had to cater for themselves. One cannot help smiling when one thinks of the solicitude shown by the Government for the welfare of natives leaving the Colony for the Straits and other places, while it is quite oblivious to the influx of the scum of Kwangtung. True, we have that white elephant the gaol, which is as favourably known to the rascality of the neighbouring provinces as the Hotel Cecil is to the élite of London. What more natural than that they should give it a trial when hard times are struck? From what one hears they are quite satisfied with the accommodation, but are disappointed with the food or rather the quantity of it as the visiting Justices can testify—showing that the creature comforts for which a benign Government receives credit fall somewhat short of expectation.

That there has been no diminution in offences during the past decade is amply proved by the enormous number of prisoners in gaol, which I suppose must average 500 daily. I often feel sorry for our hard-working Magistrates who seldom or never get home before 6.30, having day after day to try scores of criminals who should not be here at all and who are most desperate creatures who have just arrived from the country. Things would not be quite so bad if our management of the natives were different, for John Chinaman has changed very little in recent years, but I think it will be admitted that he is more easily spoilt than a child by unjudicious treatment. In proof of this, I found when recently in Macao that the natives there were extremely civil and obliging and secured, contented with their lot, in such marked contrast to the overbearing and insolent demeanour displayed by natives here when employed by Europeans. Why should there be such a difference in the manner of the natives in the two places when they are practically recruited from the same districts? I have no hesitation in saying it arises from the difference in Government. It is not so long ago since we had a Protector of Chinese in the Colony, what is now wanted is a Refector of Undesirables. While giving undesirables a very warm reception every encouragement should be given by the Government to honest Chinese coming here in search of employment; they should be housed in healthy buildings and every care should be taken that they are not preyed on by unscrupulous harpies under the cloak of one of the many guilds so common in the Colony. The reader will say this sounds very well, but how is it to be carried out? Simply enough, but it will entail a considerable amount of trouble and expense, but nothing like the cost to the Colony of the gaol with its horde of inmates, which I should expect under the new order of things to dwindle down to something reasonable. Every pawnbroker is compelled by law to keep a book which is available at any time for the inspection of the Police showing the articles pawned and who pawned

them. I should compel every boarding-house keeper to keep a similar register. This register should give the following information: name and date of arrival of each inmate, profession, employed or unemployed; if employed, where, if intending to emigrate, whereto. I should also insist on employers of labour keeping a similar register, so that if an individual staying at a particular boarding-house stated he was employed by a certain man, the Police could verify his statement by referring to the register of his employer if there was anything suspicious about his movements. Of course if a man says he came to see the sights of the Colony, he should be able to show that he is possessed of some funds, as is being done at the present time in South Africa but of course on a small scale. It is possible that rogues, hearing of the registers kept in the boarding-houses, might combine and rent rooms for a short period. To provide against this occurring, I would insist on proprietors of houses of this description also keeping a register to be available for police inspection at any time. This register should show when the rooms were let, but more particularly the occupation of the tenants. The proprietor should also satisfy himself that their statement is correct by referring to their employer. If unemployed, then as in the other cases they should be required to show they are possessed of funds. In my opinion it is absurd keeping on an average 500 prisoners in gaol, as it is expensive and does little or no good. The only advantage is that prisoners are necessarily compelled to relinquish their avocations while in durance vile, but that is a small matter considering there are hundreds coming forward to take their place. I should never have more than 100 prisoners in gaol at a time. As convicted, I should give them a rattan and deport them. Then they might be safely left to the tender mercies of the Chinese officials who could be trusted to give them something very different to a diet of the rattan if they resumed their unlawful calling. Under these circumstances I think they would be very unlikely to revisit the Colony. Of course to make this practicable, certain Ordinances would have to be amended. If we succeed in keeping these undesirables out of the Colony it would greatly help to relieve the overcrowding regarding which we hear so much nowadays. Theoretically these elaborate trials of criminals often for very trivial offences followed by up-to-date treatment in gaol seem all right, but in practice like a good many other schemes that look so nice on paper are costly failures. I have no fault to find with the Police, who do their work very well considering the material of which the force is composed.

One other matter I will refer to before bringing this rather long letter to a close. Not long ago a Commission was appointed to enquire into the labour question. It was found that things were far from satisfactory, but unfortunately the Government was too weak-kneed to make any change. Since then things have gone from bad to worse. Any afternoon if it is raining hard, it is almost impossible to get a chair the very time one most needs one, not because the chairs are employed, for scores of them can be seen lining the streets, but because the coolies have disappeared. This is altogether wrong, and is very easily put right. Put a clause in every coolie's license that if he is not in charge of his chair without giving adequate reason for his absence, his license is to be liable to cancellation.—Yours, etc.,

BIZ.

CHINESE NAMES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 4th September.

SIR.—I read with interest in your issue of this morning the discussion on the question raised by the Hon. R. Shewan as to the naturalisation of Chinese under more than one name. I entirely agree with the hon. member that Chinese should not be allowed to naturalise under more than one name, and that the aliases under which they are known, whether as honorific, literary, or otherwise, should be disregarded. The course suggested by the Attorney-General was a sensible compromise, but it does not, I think, entirely meet the difficulty. I am given to understand that it is

not uncommon for Chinese to become interested in one business under one cognomen, and to be registered as partner in another concern under another style or title. They also sometimes set out on their travels under one of these *alias*s, and cause some confusion to foreigners who may have known them as So-and-so. I think some legislation is required in this British Colony to prevent aliens from doing business or pursuing various avocations under different names. It should be made incumbent on Chinese settling here for the purpose of earning a living or carrying on trade to declare their patronymic denomination, and they should not be allowed to sign cheques or any documents under any other designation, or to enter any employment, or give evidence, or serve in any public capacity under any other designation whatsoever. There has, unfortunately, always been too much tendency, both in legislation and administration here, to forget that this is a British Colony, and not a Chinese dependency. There should be less pandering to Chinese prejudices and more honest effort to adapt the Chinese to Western customs. We do not, as we well might do, take a leaf out of the Celestial code, and treat them to a little more of the argument of the stick, instead of crowding up the gaol with petty offenders; but we do allow them to render the city malodorous and insanitary by their dirty habit, and we recognise customs and ways that are not tolerated in any other portion of the Empire. It is time that all this was changed, and that the Chinese should be brought into line with the rest of His Majesty's subjects, if they wish to aspire to the honour of British citizenship.—Yours, etc.,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX.

DANGERS AT KOWLOON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Kowloon, 4th September.

SIR.—Many of the Kowloon residents have at one time or other had accidents through the faulty condition of the Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company's tram-rails near the ferry pier at Kowloon; wheels have been wrenched off their rickshas, or their bicycles or rickshas have been upset. Others have escaped by a hair's breadth from trolleys coming at a rapid pace out of the alley-way between the godown centre and side blocks. The Acting Governor was only a few weeks ago thrown violently out of his ricksha and much shaken, at the corner of Elgin Road. This accident resulted in the removal of the offending rail, and an outburst of sympathy and gratitude among the Kowloon residents, but are we to wait till some one is killed before effective measures are taken to prevent irresponsible coolies sending heavily laden or even empty trucks across the road at the fastest pace they can get up?

On Tuesday evening last about 7.30 p.m., when cautiously cycling past this dangerous spot, which by the way is the darkest place on the road, I suddenly became aware that a truck laden with two big bales was being rapidly rushed out of the alley across the road; I just had time to push on and escape, the truck grazing the hind wheel. There was no light, no policeman, and no supervision of the coolies. Had the truck caught the centre or front of the bicycle I do not see how I could have escaped a severe injury and possible permanent mutilation.

Another grievance Kowloon residents have against the Company is a large part of the road is often taken up with trucks laden with timber, for long periods, without being moved. Why is the road used as a storing yard? If this is allowed then the Company should change its name to the Kowloon Wharf and Road Godown Co., Ltd.—Yours, etc.,

KOWLOON RESIDENT.

The question of a tea-combine seems likely to be revived in Japan. This time the idea emanates from the tea-growers of Fukuoka, Kumamoto and Nagasaki. So far the proposal is only in the initial stage, although a number of people are anxious to push the matter through. With this end in view representatives of various bodies interested in the tea business have been holding a conference at Nagasaki.

CAMPBELL, MOORE AND CO., LTD.

The following is the report of the board of directors to the sixteenth ordinary meeting of shareholders, to be held at the company's office, No. 29, Queen's Road Central, on the 9th inst., at 4 o'clock, p.m.

Gentlemen.—The directors have the pleasure to lay before you the accounts for the twelve months ending 31st December, 1901, showing a credit balance of \$7,998.66, which, with your approval, your directors propose to deal with as follows:—

To pay a dividend of 25 %	... \$3,000.00
To pay a bonus of 25 %	... 3,000.00
To pay directors' fees	400.00
To write off fixtures and furniture accounts	305.65
To place to reserve fund account	1,000.00
To carry forward to next year's account	293.01

\$7,998.66

The business continues steady, and there is every prospect that it will continue so. The fixtures and furniture accounts having been written down to \$805.65, which is very much below its true value, the reserve fund now stands at \$2,500. Your directors are confident that they will be in a position to recommend a good dividend for the current year.

Mr. V. P. Musso di Peralta was invited to join and accepted a seat on the board, which now requires confirmation.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. A. O'D. Gourdin, who offers himself for re-election.

A. FUCKEERA ARCELLI,

Chairman.

Hongkong, 31st August, 1902.

The accounts are as follows:—

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

From 1st January to 31st December, 1901.

\$ c.

To stock—	
Value of stock on hand	4,745.38
To accounts receivable—	
Due from customers	4,851.14
To cash—	
Amount on hand	831.18
To Chartered Bank—	
In current account	10,801.37
To fixtures and furniture—	
As per last account	\$1,791.15
Since added	342.65
	2,133.80
Less sale of chair	\$ 37.00
Less written off	1,291.15
	1,323.15
To loan account—	
To barber	75.00
	322,109.72

LIABILITIES.

By capital—	
1,200 shares paid up at \$10 each	12,000.00
By accounts payable—	
Due to sundry creditors	551.26
By reserve fund—	
As passed at last meeting	1,500.00
By unclaimed dividends	59.80
Balance	7,998.66
	222,109.72

WORKING ACCOUNT.

To charges	\$ 1,748.12
To wages	7,847.65
To reserve fund—	
As passed at last meeting	1,500.00
To fixtures and furniture—	
As passed at last meeting	1,291.15
To bonus to secretary—	
As passed at last meeting	175.00
To dividend—	
20 per cent. on \$12,000	2,400.00
To directors' fees	400.00
To auditor's fee	75.00
To rent	3,120.00
To insurance	30.25
To stationery	164.15
To bad debts written off	\$257.83
Less recovered	11.90
	245.93
To deficit in cash of late secretary	2,265.88
Balance	7,998.66
	222,109.72

By balance brought forward from last year	\$ 6,286.77
By interest	176.01
By transfer fees	75
By sales and shop returns	\$28,776.94
Less cost of stock	5,978.68
	22,798.26
	\$29,261.79

[September 8, 1902.]

HONGKONG COTTON SPINNING, WEAVING & DYEING CO., LTD.

The following is the report for presentation to shareholders at the fifth ordinary meeting to be held at the Offices of the General Managers on Monday, the 15th September, at 11.30 a.m.

The General Managers beg to submit a statement of accounts covering the period from 15th July, 1901, to 31st July, 1902.

After deducting \$50,00 paid as interim dividend the balance at credit of profit and loss account is \$113,465.05, which it is proposed to appropriate as follows:—

To pay a final dividend of 6 per cent. making 10 per cent. for the year	\$75,000.00
To write off Property Account	30,000.00
To carry forward to credit of next year's account	8,465.05
	\$113,465.05

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

During the temporary absence of Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Mr. R. C. Wilcox has joined the Committee, and his appointment requires confirmation at this meeting. Messrs. A. Haupt and R. C. Wilcox retire but being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. W. Hutton Potts, who offers himself for re-election.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 4th September, 1902.

The following are the accounts:—

BALANCE-SHEET.

31st July, 1902.

LIABILITIES.	\$ c.
Capital account	1,250,000.00
Sundry creditors	434,136.20
Profit and loss account	113,465.05
	\$1,797,601.25

ASSETS.	\$ c.
Property—comprising land, buildings and machinery	1,242,192.20
Furniture	2,757.00
Sundry debtors	27,950.80
Cash	780.94
Cotton, value of stock	442,891.24
Yarn, value of stock	23,426.00
Waste, value of stock	12,147.99
Mill stores, value of stock	30,353.25
Coal, value of stock	1,236.60
Fire insurance and taxes pertaining to period after 31st July, 1902	13,865.23
	\$1,797,601.25

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	\$ c.
To remuneration to General Managers, 10 per cent. on net profit	18,513.56
To remuneration to Consulting Committee	3,000.00
To auditor's fee	250.00
	21,763.56
To interim dividend of 40 cents per share paid on 17th April, 1902	50,000.00
To balance	113,465.05
	\$185,228.61

Cr.	\$ c.
By gain on working	185,135.61
By transfer fees	93.00
	\$185,228.61

Rumours were current in Tientsin on the 20th inst of an assembly of armed rebels a few miles west of the foreign concessions, the *China Times* says. So far as we have been able to ascertain there is no truth in the statements. It is again asserted that large bodies of Yuan Shikai's troops have begun to occupy the villages around Tientsin, within the prohibited area. If this is the case there is no doubt it will have been brought to the knowledge of the military commanders. Probably there has been some confusion between the new police and the troops. Later enquiries show that there are reported to be some 1,200 of the *Wu-wei-yu-chun* in Hopei. It is also stated that some of the larger villages around Tientsin have been garrisoned by some 30 to 40 soldiers each, within the prohibited radius. If this is the fact, the Viceroy has not taken long to make holes through the Agreement.

SUPREME COURT.

Wednesday, 3rd September.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(*PUISNE JUDGE*).

HANSEN v. MARTY.

This was a re-hearing of the case in which H. C. Hansen, lately third engineer on the s.s. *Hongkong*, sued E. R. Marty for \$531, being seven days' salary at the rate of \$90 a month and seven days' men's money at the rate of \$30 a month; also four months' salary in lieu of notice of dismissal as provided by the ship's articles. Mr. E. J. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. J. Hastings, of Messrs. Deacon and Hastings, solicitors, for the defendant. The case had been adjourned from the 27th ult. to permit of a translation of the ship's articles and rules being put in.

Mr. Grist said that before proceeding with the case he would ask his Lordship to refer to Captain Pannier's evidence as to the matter of by whom the plaintiff was discharged. Now that a translation of the ship's articles had been supplied, he saw that by clause 6 the owners agreed not to discharge any officers without four months' notice, but should the authorities or consular agents judge it necessary officers would be discharged and would not be entitled to any further claim. That was an entirely new departure in the defence. In his evidence the Captain had stated that the plaintiff was discharged in order to be replaced by a French engineer; that was by the owner's orders. He (Mr. Grist) took it that his friend would have been better pleased if the witness had said the plaintiff had been discharged by the orders of the consular authorities.

His Lordship asked if Mr. Hastings was in a position to prove that the Captain acted on the instructions of the consular authority.

Mr. Hastings stated that he was prepared to prove that the French law was that a French ship shall only carry French officers, but that that rule could be departed from on the authority of the Consul when there were not sufficient French officers available; and when foreign officers had been shipped and on going to a French port it turned out that French officers were available the latter must be shipped in preference to the foreigners. He did not say this was done by the shipping officer at Haiphong, but it was done by Mr. Marty, and if he had not done it he would have been compelled to do it by the shipping officer. He was not compelled, because he did it of his own accord. He was prepared to prove that.

H. Réau, Acting French Consul, stated that according to French law all officers on French vessels must be French, and also three-quarters of the crew. The Consuls and authorities in the Far East had the power of relaxing that rule where necessary. When French officers were not available, foreign officers could be shipped until French officers were available. In the case of foreign officers having been shipped and the ship coming to a port where French officers were available the owners were compelled to discharge the foreign officers and ship French officers. It was the law that the shipping officer should compel owners to discharge foreign officers and engage French officers when the latter were available. A foreigner was one who was not entered on the French naval list.

Cross-examined.—This law was passed in 1793. There had been a recent alteration of the rules. That was two or two or three years ago. At that time new rules were made with reference to the employment of foreign officers. These rules did not apply to the *Hongkong*, which was registered at Marseilles. The *Hongkong* was not subsidised. He did not know whether or not it was about to be subsidised.

No other evidence was called.

Mr. Grist, in addressing the Court, stated that the aspect of the case had been entirely altered; the original defence that neither party was bound by the contract had apparently been absolutely abandoned. According to the ship's articles, four months' notice was to be given or taken on either side with regard to dismissal, with the

proviso that if the authorities shall require the discharge of a man the owners shall discharge him and the man shall have no further claim. In this case did the authorities require this man to be discharged? The evidence was that the authorities did not in any way interfere. It could only be presumed that the authorities would not have interested themselves in the matter at all and that the plaintiff would have continued in his employment on board this steamer if it had not been for the deliberate act of the owner himself. There was no evidence that the authorities judged it necessary or called upon the owner to discharge the plaintiff. Therefore he was entitled to his claim.

Mr. Hastings contended in the first place that as the plaintiff had been engaged on board a French ship he was subject to the French law. Probably he knew that under that law he was liable, being a foreigner, to be discharged on a moment's notice.

His Lordship—Under certain conditions.

Mr. Hastings—Certainly. He was liable to instant discharge in the event of the authorities judging it necessary that he should be discharged. In this case it was equivalent to the authorities interfering. A French engineer was available, and the Consul had told the Court that if the owner had not discharged the foreigner and shipped a French engineer it would be the duty of the Commissaire to compel him to do so. If the man had not been discharged the Commissaire would very soon have called the owner's attention to the fact. The owner was bound to comply with clause 6.

His Lordship, in giving judgment, said that in this case the plaintiff sued practically on the articles and regulations, subject to any modifications that might be made by French law. The case came on before him originally and judgment was given for the plaintiff. A re-hearing was then applied for on the ground that he had not properly understood the French Consul, and he thought it only fair that it should be re-heard. When the first re-hearing came on, the things he had been wanting all along—the articles and regulations—were produced. He had already expressed his opinion that the whole delay in the case had been caused by Mr. Marty; he said in the first instance that the regulations could not be got nor the articles, and now these things were brought forward. His Lordship had no hesitation in saying again that the whole trouble in that Court had been caused by Mr. Marty. If these productions had been brought forward at the time, the case would have been settled the first time. As the case was, it had been going on for a month or more. What were these rules? Clause 6 provided that no officer shall be discharged without four months' notice. If it stopped there the case would be clear. But the clause went on to say that should the authorities or consular agents judge it necessary (which showed they had discretionary power) officers shall be discharged and shall not be entitled to any further claim. On that ground it was held—and he had no doubt the French law had been correctly stated by the Consul—that when a French officer was available at any port the authorities were then bound to insist that that French officer should be taken on and any foreign officer discharged. It seemed to him that Mr. Marty had broken their own French law. It was perfectly clear, according to the defendant's own showing, that French engineers were available in Haiphong. Therefore it was their duty then and there to discharge the plaintiff and engage a French engineer. Instead of doing that and taking the plaintiff back as a passenger, the owner took him back to Hongkong as engineer and there discharged him. Clearly then the defendant had broken the French law to begin with. It seemed to him that there had been no interference in any way by the authorities or consular agents at Haiphong in the matter of requiring the plaintiff's discharge; and it did not seem to him that it was absolutely necessary that they should require a foreign officer's discharge, but that it was left to their discretion, if they judged it necessary. The defendant had not carried out the French law. Therefore in these circumstances and conditions the plaintiff was entitled to his claim. His Lordship accordingly gave judgment for the plaintiff, with costs in both cases.

The Court adjourned.

Thursday, 4th September.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

BODEMEYER v. BOWA BREWING CO.

These were two actions, heard jointly, one for £800 and the other for £596.90, the first claim being in respect of salary for four months and the second comprising £296.90 of hotel expenses paid by the plaintiff on behalf of Mr. Meslovsy and £300 of travelling and other expenses incurred by the plaintiff on behalf of the Company. Mr. E. J. Grist of Messrs. Wilkinson & Grist, solicitors, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. G. C. C. Master of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes & Master, solicitors, for the defendants, on the instruction of the Hon. Wei A Yuk and Mr. Fung Wa Chun.

Mr. H. H. Bodemeyer deposed that he was a surveyor. He was for some time in the employ of the Bowa Brewing Co. He held the position of general manager and also of secretary. He paid £296.90 to the Hongkong Hotel for board and lodging for Mr. Meslovsy. The Hon. Wei A Yuk asked him to pay that sum because Mr. Meslovsy was retained to serve in the brewery. That was before any work had been actually started by the Company. He had applied to Mr. Wei A Yuk for the repayment of that money, but had always been put off with the statement that the Company had no money in hand but that it would be paid by-and-by. He went to Japan for the Company in January, 1900. He received a sum of \$100 from Mr. Fung Wa Chun, which sum he entered in the books as money received. It was paid to him as travelling expenses. He was sent to Japan to see what Mr. Meslovsy was doing. That \$100 was all he received. His Japan expenses were altogether nearly 500 yen. He was away from 26th January till 5th March. He was obliged to borrow 300 yen from Mr. Meslovsy; all that money was expended by him on behalf of the Company. Mr. Meslovsy had got judgment against him for the sum. Before that suit he went to see Mr. Wei A Yuk and Mr. Fung Wa Chun. The latter told him that he had to fight Mr. Meslovsy's claim and then they would settle the matter. Mr. Wei A Yuk said the same thing. The £300 had not been paid to him yet. His salary was £200 a month, free travelling expenses and hotel expenses. His salary was reduced to £50 in April, 1901, on condition that when the Company got new capital the £150 per month would be refunded. That arrangement held during the month of May. On 31st May he came to a further arrangement with Mr. Wei A Yuk; that being that he should go to Europe on behalf of the Company for the purpose of raising additional capital among his friends. His salary was to continue at £200 a month and he had to pay his own travelling expenses. He went to Europe. After expending more than £5,000 he received a letter while in Europe stating that he was no longer connected with the Brewing Co. and warning him not to represent himself as manager of the Company. He left for Europe in June. Before going he received £625, which was the proceeds of the sale of wood belonging to the Company at Chungshawan. That represented his salary for July, August and September. He had not been paid for June.

Cross-examined—He took the books of the Company to Europe with him and handed them over to the Company's solicitor on 31st May of this year.

Re-examined—He was sent to Japan to watch Meslovsy, who the directors had reason to believe, was not doing the work that he had been sent there to do. The £300 he got from Meslovsy was expended partly in paying the detectives who traced out Meslovsy; that cost about £15. Then there were expenses for travelling back and forward from Nagasaki to the factory—£2 a day. He had also to give dinners to various people with whom he had dealings on behalf of the Company. He had been told to spare no trouble or expense when he got his instructions before going to Japan.

Mr. Fung Wa Chun deposed that he was one of the partners in the Brewing Co. and took an active part in the start of the concern. He never agreed to the plaintiff going to Europe on the Company's business; nor was it agreed

that he should get any salary after May. He never authorised plaintiff to sell wood at Chungshawan, and did not know until that morning that plaintiff had realised £6.5 by the sale of the wood. He did not authorise plaintiff to pay the hotel expenses of Mr. Meslovsy.

Cross-examined—It was at the end of March that it was agreed to reduce the plaintiff's salary to £50; he was to be allowed to do outside work. At the end of May the plaintiff resigned from the service of the Company; he did not go to Europe on the Company's business. The Company was not going on now.

Hon. Wei A Yuk stated that it was not the fact that he authorised the plaintiff to pay Mr. Meslovsy's hotel expenses. He did not know that plaintiff had sold wood at Chungshawan and got £600 thereby; that was done without his knowledge. Plaintiff resigned at the end of May and had no further connection with the Company.

Mr. Master in addressing the Court characterised Mr. Bodemeyer's case as an impudent claim.

Mr. Grist also addressed the Court.

His Lordship in giving judgment said that the plaintiff had failed to prove that he had the authority of the Hon. Wei A Yuk to pay Mr. Meslovsy's hotel expenses. That disposed of the claim for £296.90. As to the item of £300 for travelling expenses, his Lordship believed that he had actually got the money from Meslovsy but had spent it on his own pleasures and was now trying to come upon the Company for the amount. There was no word in the books as to how this £300 was spent, whereas minor expenses were fully recorded. As to the £800 for salary, plaintiff admitted that his salary was reduced to £50, and stated that Hon. Wei A Yuk and Mr. Fung Wa Chun asked him to go to Europe to raise more capital. The two defendants who were present were men of business, but if they were likely to employ the plaintiff at his full salary to go to Europe to raise capital they were not the sort of business men his Lordship thought them. He certainly would not have done so. The two defendants who had given evidence totally denied the plaintiff's story and he must accept their evidence as being correct. Judgment for defendants in both cases, with costs of one hearing.

The Court adjourned.

HONGKONG WATER-POLO SHIELD FINAL.

V.R.C. "A" v. ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS.

The weather conditions at Kowloon on the 30th ult. were not very favourable for the aquatic game. At 4.30, an hour before the notified time of commencing play, a torrential downpour of rain started, accompanied by thunder and lightning. This, however, cleared off about 5.30, and it was decided that the match should be played. Arrangements had been made by the V.R.C. for a considerable number of spectators, but owing to the rain, the ordinary accommodation was ample. At 5.55, when the game started, the sky was dull and threatening; but matters were brightened somewhat by the arrival of over a dozen ladies, whose interest in the sport had made them brave the elements. The teams and officials were as follows:—

V.R.C. "A"—Pereira, goal; Hance and Loureiro, backs; Alves, half-back; Herbst, Humphreys, and Bain, forwards.

R.W.F.—Whitney, goal; Holland and Andrews, backs; Coltman, half-back; Roberts Monk, and Gregory, forwards.

Referee—Mr. H. A. Lammert; timekeeper—Mr. W. O'char; flagman—Mr. H. M. Bain; linesman—Mr. M. M'Fer (V.R.C.), Corp. C. P. Hogg (R.W.F.).

THE GAME.

From the centre throw, the Fusiliers gained possession and had a long shot at goal, but without result. Two fouls in quick succession, the first for the soldiers and the other against them, made play rather interesting. The opening goal was brilliant and came from Humphreys, who, though hard pressed, threw hard and with sure aim into the net, after one minute's play. The second goal for the Club was not long delayed. Alves manoeuvred the ball into position and passed to Bain, whose shot so close in was unavable. This was answered by a smart piece of work from the Fusilier forwards, which resulted in their first

goal, Gregory being the scorer. Humphreys lying well into opponents' territory received a pass, which he converted. Whitney got his hands on the ball but could not hold it. Following an exciting scrimmage in front of the V.R.C. goal, the ball was carried down, and Hance scored an easy goal. Plenty of ducking was taking place, neither side being too particular. Whitney called forth unfavourable comments by throwing into the corner, when not hard pressed. Loureiro scored the fifth goal from centre—the ball striking the inside of the crossbar. Monk almost scored from half-way, but he had no luck. Half-time was called with the score:—

V.R.C., 5; R.W.F., 1 goal.

After an interval of only a few minutes, the referee restarted the game without loss of time. Humphreys secured and passed. Loureiro tried a long shot which, however, went wide. Monk had a nice try, but Pereira was not to be beaten. Alves from the right scored with a shot the goalkeeper might have saved. Humphreys again won the race for the ball, but Loureiro again shot wide. Gregory had two fine shots in quick succession, but one of the forwards, to whom the ball came, threw over the bar. Bain made no mistake about his next shot, which went into the net with great force. From the centre throw Humphreys as usual gained the ball: passing to Loureiro the latter tried a long shot, which was successful. Goals were now coming at the rate of one a minute. Alves scored the ninth. Notwithstanding the big total against them, the Fusiliers stuck to their men gamely, and had one or two likely tries. Gaining a corner, the ball was placed in the right spot, and Gregory scored the soldiers' second goal. After a few minutes' play Humphreys swam right into the goal-mouth and tipped the ball over Whitney's head. From the resulting centre throw Humphreys was first on the ball: he gave to Loureiro, who, owing to the incompetency of the goalkeeper, raised the V.R.C. total to eleven goals. Just before time, several players on both sides took cramp. On the restart, Monk had a splendid try, which completely beat Pereira, bringing the Fusilier total to three goals. Full time was called soon after with the scores:—

V.R.C., 11; R.W.F., 3 goals.

It seemed the general opinion that the Fusiliers had not done themselves justice, and were capable of giving the Club a much harder game. This was due in a great measure to their goalkeeper Whitney, who should never have entered the water. For the losers Monk, Gregory, and Andrews played a first-rate game. The V.R.C. captain, Humphreys, was the outstanding man on the side. Chiefly due to him, Loureiro was able to score three goals. The other members of the team played with unselfishness and with good combination; these, combined with the strong swimming of Humphreys, were the chief factors in the Club winning for the fourth consecutive year the Shield and gold badges of the Water Polo Association, and they thoroughly deserved their victory. Mr. H. A. Lammert was a fair referee; though, due no doubt to the excitement of the moment, he occasionally forgot his position, and shouted advice to the Club. It is hoped that Mrs. Robinson will present the Shield at the V.R.C. Sports, which are due to take place on the 11th and the two days following in this month.

HONGKONG.

The half mile race on the Happy Valley race-course on the 1st inst., between Black Tulip and Eau, owners up, ended in an easy victory for the former.

On the 2nd inst., in the Queen's Hotel, the chief and assistant naval engine-room artificers on this station sat down to dinner, the occasion being a combined welcome and farewell to incoming and home-going comrades. Covers were laid for forty, and the respective positions at table of those present were indicated by two floral wreaths bearing the words, "Homeward bound" and "Welcome." The dinner was a most successful one, no small credit for which is due to Mr. R. F. Daly, the new manager of the Queen's Hotel, who exerted himself to make the occasion a thoroughly enjoyable one. A concert which followed the dinner brought to a close an exceedingly pleasant evening.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Amoy has been recognised by Hongkong as free from cholera.

On the U. S. S. *Rainbow* returning to Manila after dry-docking at Kowloon, the distilling and supply ship *Iris* is to come here for repairs also.

Shortly before 7 p.m. on the 1st inst. a fire occurred at Yaumati, in a māshed, which was completely destroyed. The flames burned brightly for about half an hour, and attracted the gaze of many people on the Hongkong side. The damage done was not heavy.

Messrs. Sander, Wieler & Co. informed us on the 4th inst. that they have received information that the Norwegian ss. *Osto* stranded on Giruma reef, Loochco Islands, on a voyage from Iloilo with sugar to Yokohama. No further news is to hand so far.

The billiard tournament in the Civilian Club was brought to a close in last week of August. Mr. W. Goldenburg won the first prize (a silver rosebowl), and second honours fell to Mr. O. R. Chunnutt, who thereby secured a silver cup. To Mr. J. Quinn went the prize for the highest break, a handsome silver cigar-case kindly presented by Mr. H. T. Coleman.

There was a large concourse of people at the Parade Ground on Wednesday evening to hear the band of the Hongkong Regiment, which gave an excellent performance. Special interest attached to the event as this is probably the last occasion on which we shall have the pleasure of hearing the H. K. R. band, previous to the departure of the regiment for India to be disbanded.

On Saturday, the 30th inst., about 4.30 p.m., the Colony was visited by a violent thunderstorm. It lasted for rather less than an hour but was very severe though short-lived. The Harbour people were under the impression apparently that a typhoon was in the air, for the bulk of the small craft made for the shelter at Causeway Bay. As it was, however, the storm cleared off as rapidly as it had come down and the evening was pleasantly cool, a result no doubt of the heavy rains which fell. Streets were flooded in some quarters, but no serious damage is reported.

Theatre-goers in Hongkong will be glad to learn that they will probably have an opportunity of seeing a first-class play acted by a first-class company within a month's time. The Neill-Frawley company, which is to play a long season in Manila, has changed its plans and is coming out from San Francisco on the new steamer *Korea*, which will arrive in Hongkong in the latter part of this month. They are to play one night each in Honolulu and Yokohama, taking advantage of the steamer's wait, and as they must make a transfer here to the Manila steamer they will have two to four days, during which time they may give a couple of performances. The Neill-Frawley company is, according to the latest San Francisco criticisms, a splendid organisation of capable actors and actresses. Mr. Daniel Frawley is the leading man and stage manager, and the leading lady is Miss Mary Van Buren. She is a cousin of General Chaffee, the U.S. general commanding in the Philippines, and the announcement of her impending visit has aroused the Army and Navy people in Manila, who will show her great attention.

The Brothers Francis, la'e of the Barnes Company, have now almost completed the arrangements for their entertainment, which is to be held under distinguished patronage on Saturday, the 13th inst., in the City Hall. Already the assistance of some of the best-known local talent has been secured. Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Stephenson have kindly consented to appear in a sketch called *The Colonel* in addition to which Mrs. Stephenson will give vocal selections. Among others who have placed their services at the disposal of the beneficiaries are Messrs. W. Cullen and Gus Gregory and Pte. Burgess, A.O.C., besides artists from the U.S.S. *Monadnock* and the British war-vessels. The Brothers Francis will appear in several musical specialties and Mr. Don Francis will act as pianist. It is satisfactory to learn that the tickets are going well, and no doubt there will be a bumper house, especially in view of the fact that it is a long time since we have had an entertainment of this kind in the Colony. The box plan is open at the Robinson Piano Co.

In the Stag Hotel on the 3rd inst. the chief and first-class petty officers of H. M. S. *Tamar* gave a dinner to celebrate the occasion of the arrival of reliefs and that of the departure of old shipmates. The dinner was a very enjoyable and successful one, and in the smoking concert which followed the Francois Brothers, who are arranging an entertainment in the City Hall for Saturday, the 13th inst., lent their assistance.

Soon after four o'clock on the 4th inst., fire broke out on the first floor of premises situate at 105, Wellington Street. The alarm was quickly sounded, and not long after the discovery of the outbreak the fire brigade was on the spot. By this time, however, the flames had obtained a firm hold of the shop in which the outbreak originated, one occupied by a shoemaker, and were shooting out into the street, accompanied by dense clouds of smoke, so preventing the firemen from entering the building. The cascades of water with which they were fought ultimately extinguished the flames, and when it was safe to do so an entry was made for the purpose of ascertaining the nature and extent of the damage. On the ground floor, which was tenanted jointly by a silversmith and grocer, not much damage was done, and what accrued was caused by water only. The shoemaker's shop on the first floor, where, as has been remarked, the outbreak commenced, was practically destroyed, but on the second floor, where the damage to property was trifling, a discovery was made which imparted to the circumstance a gravity hitherto undreamt of. This floor was occupied as a family house, and on Sergeant Garrod forcing an entry into one of the cubicles a gruesome sight met his gaze. Lying in various positions in the room were the bodies of three females who had died from suffocation. The fire had scarcely touched them, only part of their clothing and skin showing signs of having been burnt. One of the victims was a child of six or seven, apparently, another a servant girl of about sixteen, and the third a married woman; the bodies were removed to the mortuary. It is not known how the fire occurred, but the damage is believed to be covered by insurance.

COMMERCIAL.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 5th September.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 5th September.—The upward tendency continues, market being brisk.
Shekloong, No. 1, White.....\$8.15 to \$8.20 per lb.
do. 2, White.....6.80 to 6.85 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ... 6.10 to 6.15 "
do. 2, Brown ... 5.90 to 5.95 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....8.05 to 8.10 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....5.70 to 5.75 "
do. 1, Brown ... 5.85 to 5.90 "
do. 2, Brown ... 5.70 to 5.75 "
Foochow Sugar Candy.....12.05 to 12.10 "
Shekloong "9.65 to 9.70 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 5th September.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported:

Saigon, Ordinary.....\$3.25 to 3.30
" Round, Good quality4.15 to 4.20
" Long4.25 to 4.30
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 23.50 to 3.55
" Garden, " No. 13.75 to 3.80
" White.....4.30 to 4.35
" Fine Cargo4.50 to 4.55

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Atholl*, sailed on the 9th August. For New York:—1,063 pkgs. fire crackers, 206 cases blackwoodware, 12 bales canes, 22 pkgs. tea, 55 boxes bristles, 24 boxes human hair, 5 cases rice paper, 4 cases staranised, 8 bales rattancore, 815 pkgs. merchandise.

Per steamer *Ulysses*, sailed on the 9th August. For London:—332 half-chests tea from Amoy, particulars unknown; 1,37 boxes scented caper 28,770 lbs., 1,737 boxes scented caper 36,477 lbs., 43 cases Chinaware, 10 cases bambooware, 210 bales antimony, 100 bales waste silk, 12 cases shell, 24 cases personal effects, 2,344 bales hemp, 28 pkgs. sundries. For Liverpool:—750 bales hemp, 5 cases hams, 2 cases cigars. For Leith:—5 cases effects.

Per Imperial German Mail steamer *Kiautschou*, sailed on the 7th August. For Colombo:—84 pkgs. Chinaware. For Aden:—750 bags sugar, 200 pkgs. flour. For Smyrna:—15' boxes cassia. For Odessa:—300 boxes cassia. For Trieste:—100 bales rattanshaving, 50 bales waste silk, 5 cases staranised oil. For Constantinople:—325 boxes cassia, 20 bales galangal, 4 cases cassia buds, 2 cases cantharides, 1 bag ginger. For Genoa:—462 bales raw silk, 439 bales pierced cocoons, 100 bales waste silk, 30 cases staranised oil, 12 cases camphorwood-trunks. For Valencia:—200 boxes cassia. For Antwerp:—247 bales scraps, 50 bales feathers, 20 cases bristles, 19 rolls matting. For Antwerp/Hamburg:—125 cases bristles, 50 cases gallnuts. For Antwerp/Hamburg/London:—10 cases bristles. For Amsterdam:—24 boxes teastick, 3 cases curios. For Rotterdam:—2 rolls matting. For Rotterdam/Amsterdam:—3 cases ore, 2 cases lychees, 1 case embroideries. For London:—460 rolls matting. For Bremen:—67 rolls matting, 3 boxes Chinaware, 1 box tea, 1 bag coffee. For Hamburg:—300 cases cassia, 147 bales canes, 112 bales feathers, 77 cases bristles, 40 cases staranised oil, 20 cases palmleafans, 14 boxes Chinaware, 5 cases cows hair, 4 cases feathers. For Copenhagen:—4 bales feathers.

Per British barque *Comet*, sailed on the 19th August. For New York:—33,162 rolls matting, 3,714 bales tea, 3,200 bales cassia, 200 boxes cassia, 2,919 packages fire crackers, 2,330 bales rattancore, 605 cases palm fans, 115 cases bamboo fans, 435 bales cans, 225 bales, bamboo splits, 215 cases straw cuffs, 200 casks soy, 161 packages rattanware, 100 packages medicine, 67 bales rush hats, 16 bales straw braids.

Per P. & O. steamer *Canton*, sailed on the 22nd August. For Marseilles:—8 pkgs. private effects. For London:—193 pkgs. tea, 960 cases preserves, 100 bales feathers, 94 cases Chinaware, 37 cases woodware, 10 cases basketware, 12 chests Persian opium, 3 cases curios, 4 cases silks, 1 case private effects.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 6th September.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$85.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24,.....	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24,.....	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32,.....	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42,.....	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.20 to 2.25
7 lbs.	2.30 to 2.50
8.4 lbs.	3.10 to 3.75
9 to 10 lbs.	3.80 to 5.00
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.55 to 2.90
58 to 60 "	3.20 to 3.40
64 to 66 "	4.50 to 5.30
Fine.....	5.35 to 7.80
Book-folds.....	4.50 to 7.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.75 to 1.40
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.....	1.85 to 2.10
7 lbs. (32 "), "	2.15 to 2.45
8 lbs. (32 "), Mexs.....	2.20 to 2.35
7 lbs. (32 "), "	2.95 to 3.50
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.15 to 3.75
Drills, English—40 yds., 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 14 lbs.	4.20 to 6.90

FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 lbs	1.65 to 5.50
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Brocades—Dyed

DAMASKS

	per yard
Chintzes—Assorted	0.08 to 0.20
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.28 to 0.75
Velveteens—18 in.	0.23 to 0.30

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.30 to 3.00

WOOLLENS

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chps.	0.65 to 2.00
German	1.25 to 3.00
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 3.00

per piece

Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	8.50 to 8.50
Assorted.....	6.80 to 8.65
Camlets—Assorted.....	12.00 to 32.00

Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches

Assorted

Orleans—Plain

per pair

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	4.00 to 9.00
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METALS—		per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	4.55	to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.50	to —
Swedish Bar	4.80	to —
Small Round Rod	4.95	to —
Hoop 1 to 1/2 in.,	6.15	to —
Wire, 16/25,	9.00	to —
Old Wire Rope	3.00	to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	8.00	to —
Australian	8.00	to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	40.00	to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	4.00	to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	4.00	to —
Composition Nails	61.00	to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	39.00	to —
Tin	82.50	to —
Tin-Plates	8.60	to —
		box. per
		per cwt. case
Steel 1 to 1	6.50	to —

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 5th September. — Business generally has been dull throughout the week, and we close with a weakening tendency for most of our principal stocks.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais improved during the earlier part of the week and up to \$597 $\frac{1}{2}$ was paid; at the close the position is weaker, and shares can be obtained at \$595. London quotes £62 ex dividend.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions continue in request at \$395. Cantons have sold at \$172 $\frac{1}{2}$ and are in further request at the rate. China Traders are on offer at \$59, and Yangtzees at \$127 $\frac{1}{2}$. North Chinas can be placed at Tls. 187 $\frac{1}{2}$.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs continue in request at \$335. Chinas have sold at \$84.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos are reported sold at \$37 and there are further sellers. Indo-Chinas after sales at \$80 and \$81 are weaker with sellers at \$79. China and Manilas have suffered a severe decline and can be obtained at \$25. Douglasses are weaker with sales and further sellers at \$12 $\frac{1}{2}$. Star Ferries and Shall Transports are unchanged.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been booked at \$95 and \$97 $\frac{1}{2}$ and can be procured at the latter rate. Luzons have changed hands at the reduced rate of \$10.

MINING.—Punjoms (ordinaries) are offering at \$4 $\frac{1}{2}$ and preferences at \$1. Jelebus have been taken off the market at \$1 $\frac{1}{2}$ and are wanted. Raubs after sales at \$6 are offering at the reduced rate of \$5.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continued in demand until yesterday, and small sales up to \$220 were effected. A weakening influence has since set in and shares are now obtainable at \$217 $\frac{1}{2}$. Honkong and Kowloon Wharves, after sales at \$83 and \$84 ex dividend, are in further request at the latter rate. New Amoy Docks continue in request at \$37. Farnhams have declined in the north to Tls. 177 $\frac{1}{2}$, at which rate shares are procurable.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands are somewhat weaker with sellers at \$17 $\frac{1}{2}$. Kowloon Lands have sold and are offering at \$30. Hongkong Hotels are quiet at \$13 $\frac{1}{2}$. Humphrey's Estates have sold at \$11 $\frac{1}{2}$ to \$11 $\frac{1}{2}$ and continue in strong request at the former rate.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkong Cottons have sold and can be placed at \$17. This company will pay a final dividend of 6 per cent., making in all 10 per cent., for the year's working. The northern stocks continue on offer at quotations.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have sold at \$20. Watsons have been booked at \$14 $\frac{1}{2}$. Electrics are offering at \$13 (old) and \$6 $\frac{1}{2}$ (new). Campbell Moore's have further improved to \$35 buyers. The directors of this company propose to pay a dividend of 25 per cent. and bonus of 25 per cent. in all \$5 per share for the year ending December 31st, 1901. China Providents can be procured at \$9.85. Universal Trading are slightly lower at \$19 $\frac{1}{2}$ sellers. Powells have been booked at \$4.

MEMOS.—Campbell, Moore & Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 9th instant. Hongkong Cotton Spinning, Weaving and Dyeing Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 15th instant; transfer books close from the 9th instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Sh'ai	\$125	\$595, sellers L'don. £62.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$27, sellers
B. Shares	£8	\$27, sellers
Foun. Shares	£1	\$10, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$1, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$35, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$15	\$20, sellers
China Light & Power { Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$15, sellers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9.90, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$97 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$500, nominal.
Philippine Tobacco { Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$45, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 40, sellers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 35, sellers
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 45, sellers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 150.
Hongkong	\$100	\$17, sales & buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$47, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$20, sales & sellers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$40.
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$5	\$61, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$345, buyers
Hk. Steam Water { boat Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$10.
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$131.
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$240, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$84, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$140, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$217 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$172 $\frac{1}{2}$, sales & buys.
China Fire	\$20	\$84, sales
China Traders'	\$25	\$59, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$335, buyers
North China	£25	Tls. 187 $\frac{1}{2}$, buyers
Straits	\$20	nominal.
Union	\$50	\$395, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$127 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$172, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$11 $\frac{1}{2}$, buyers
Kowloon Land & E.	\$30	\$30, sales & sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$50, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10, sales
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$20, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$550.
Jelebu	\$5	\$1 $\frac{1}{2}$, buyers
Punjom	\$10	\$44, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1, sellers
Raubs	18	\$5, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6 $\frac{1}{2}$	\$37, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$45, sellers
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$9.
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$55.
Steamship Cos.—		
China and Manila	{	\$50 \$25, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$5	nominal
H., Canton and M...	\$50	\$42 $\frac{1}{2}$, sales & sellers
Indo-China S. N.	\$15	\$37, sales & sellers
Shell Transport and	\$20	\$79, sellers
Trading Co.	£1	\$22, sellers
Star Ferry	{	\$10 \$20 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$10 $\frac{1}{2}$, sales
United Asbestos	\$5	nominal
Do.	\$4	\$8 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Universal Trading {	\$10	\$155, buyers
Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$19 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$7, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$14 $\frac{1}{2}$, sales & sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Shanghai, 3rd September (from Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report). There has been a disinclination to buy shares, and although Indo-Chinas show a little improvement, Farnham shares declined. Marine Insurance.—Yangtzes were sold locally at \$130, and North Chinas at Tls. 190. Fire Insurance.—Both stocks have improved. Hongkongs to \$335, and Chinas to \$83. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. Co. Shares have been placed at Tls. 58/59 cash, 59 for September, 59 $\frac{1}{2}$ for October, 60/61 for December, and 62 $\frac{1}{2}$ for January. Cash shares wanted at the close. Douglas Steamship shares are offering at \$43. Sugars.—China Sugar

Refining shares are offering at \$98, and Luzons have sellers at \$12. Mining.—Chinese Engineering and Mining shares were sold at Tls. 9.00/8.75 cash and 9.00 for December. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co. shares changed hands at declining rates: Tls. 192 $\frac{1}{2}$ /185 cash, 187 $\frac{1}{2}$ /185 for September, 192 $\frac{1}{2}$ for October, 197 $\frac{1}{2}$ for December and 200 for January. There are sellers at the close. Shares are wanted in Hongkong at \$215. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. shares came into demand, and were placed at Tls. 295/300 cash and 315 for January, ex the interim dividend of Tls. 6 paid on the 1st instant. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were placed at Tls. 115, and are wanted. Weihaiwei shares are offering. Industrial.—Shanghai Gas shares are wanted. Cotton Mills.—Ewos, Internationals, and Laou Kung Mows are offering. There are sellers of Shanghai Ice, and Paper and Pulp shares. Tugs and Cargo Boats.—Taku Tug and Lighter Co. At an extraordinary meeting of shareholders held in Tientsin on the 26th May a resolution was passed increasing the capital of the Company to Tls. 1,500,000 by the creation of 20,000 new shares of Tls. 50 each, of which 17,000 were issued to shareholders in the proportion of two new shares for every old share. An interim dividend of 2 per cent. was paid on the 26th July. Shares have changed hands at Tls. 54. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco shares were placed at Tls. 48. Shanghai Langkat Tobacco shares changed hands at Tls. 255. Hall & Holtz shares are wanted. Astor House Hotel shares are offering. Weeks & Co. shares were sold at \$26 $\frac{1}{2}$ and are wanted. L. Mondon shares were placed at Tls. 50. Loans.—Shanghai Club 6 per cent. Debentures were sold at Tls. 102.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.
SATURDAY, 8th September.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bank Bills, on demand	1/8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON PARIS.	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.16 $\frac{1}{2}$
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.20 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON GERMANY.	On demand 1.76 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON NEW YORK.	
Bank Bills, on demand	42
Credits, 60 days' sight	42 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON BOMBAY.	
Telegraphic Transfer	129 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bank, on demand	129 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON CALCUTTA.	Telegraphic Transfer 129 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bank, on demand	129 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON SHANGHAI.	Bank, at sight 73 $\frac{1}{2}$
Private, 30 days' sight	74 $\frac{1}{2}$
ON YOKOHAMA.	On demand 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.p.m.
ON MANILA.	On demand 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.p.m.
ON SINGAPORE.	On demand 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.p.m.
ON BATAVIA.	On demand 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.p.m.
ON HAIPHONG.	On demand 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.p.m.
ON SAIGON.	On demand 1 p.c.p.m.
ON BANGKOK.	On demand 60 $\frac{1}{2}$
SOVEREIGNS.	Bank's Buying Rate \$11.54
GOLD LEAF.	100 fine, per tael \$6.40
BAR SILVER.	per oz. 24

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.	Benalder (str.), Hakata Maru (str.).
FOR LIVERPOOL.	Pyrrhus (str.).
FOR MARSEILLES.	T

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

August—ARRIVALS.

29, Mongkut, German str., from Bangkok.
 30, Dagmar, German str., from Swatow.
 30, Diamante, British str., from Manila.
 30, Iyo Maru, Japanese str., from Seattle.
 30, Phra C. Klao, German str., from Bangkok.
 30, Pronto, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
 30, Suisang, British str., from Hongay.
 30, Tartar, British str., from Vancouver.
 30, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
 30, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Auping.
 31, Chelydra, British str., from Moji.
 31, Eastern, British str., from Australia.
 31, Hongbee, British str., from Straits.
 31, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
 31, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Iloilo.
 31, Kweiyang, British str., from Chefoo.
 31, Mazagon, British str., from Moji.
 31, Sandakan, German str., from Sandakan.
 31, Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.

September—

1, Decima, German str., from Pakhoi.
 1, Guthrie, British str., from Kobe.
 1, Hinsang, British str., from Java.
 1, Jason, British str., from Glasgow.
 1, Nankin, British str., from Bombay.
 1, Pembrokeshire, British str., from London.
 1, Sishan, British str., from Saigon.
 1, Taiwan, British str., from Swatow.
 2, Amphitrite, British str., from Port Edward.
 2, Petchaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
 2, Shantung, German str., from Saigon.
 2, Lena, Norwegian str., from Sourabaya.
 3, Bisagno, Italian str., from Bombay.
 3, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihao.
 3, Chingtu, British str., from Sydney.
 3, Doris, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 3, Kong Beng, German str., from Bangkok.
 3, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
 3, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
 3, Konig Albert, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
 3, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
 3, Toyo Maru, Japanese str., from Kobe.
 3, Yiksang, British str., from Hongay.
 4, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 4, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Swatow.
 4, Glenshiel, British str., from Singapore.
 4, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 4, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
 4, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
 4, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from Karatsu.
 4, P. R. Luitpold, German str., from Bremen.
 4, Szechuen, British str., from Swatow.
 4, Amoy, German str., from Cebu.
 5, Elsa, German str., from Hongay.
 5, Hangchow, British str., from Newchwang.
 5, Hongwan I, British str., from Singapore.
 6, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Coast Ports.
 6, Antenor, British str., from Foochow.
 6, Apenrade, German str., from Hoihao.
 6, Banca, British str., from Foochow.
 6, Coptic, British str., from San Francisco.
 6, Hailar, French str., from Pakhoi.
 6, Michael Jebsen, German str., from Pakhoi.
 6, Oceanien, French str., from Marseilles.
 6, Sanuki Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 6, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
 6, Uganda, British transport, from Taku.
 7, Tonkin, French str., from Shanghai.
 7, Woosung, British str., from Shanghai.

August—DEPARTURES.

30, Bengal, British str., for Shanghai.
 30, China, German str., for Singapore.
 30, Chusan, British str., for Europe.
 30, Germania, German str., for Amoy.
 31, Kasuga Maru, Jap. str., for Australia.
 30, Marie Jebsen, Ger. str., for Singapore.
 30, Nanchang, British str., for Weihaiwei.
 30, Nippon Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
 30, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
 31, Sullberg, German str., for Chefoo.
 30, Taichow, German str., for Bangkok.
 30, Triumph, German str., for Pakhoi.
 31, Crown of Aragon, British str., for Natal.
 31, Glengarry, British str., for Shanghai.
 31, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 31, Robt. Dickinson, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
 31, Saga, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.

September—

1, Ness, British str., for Moji.
 1, Tetartos, German str., for Amoy.
 1, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 1, Schwalbe, German gunboat, for Home.
 2, Arratoon Apear, Brit. str., for Calcutta.

2, Chunsang, British str., for Tientsin.
 2, Dagmar, German str., for Haukow.
 2, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 2, Deramore, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 2, Eastern, British str., for Shanghai.
 2, Hailoong, British str., for Amoy.
 2, Hongbee, British str., for Amoy.
 2, Kweiyang, British str., for Canton.
 2, Lisa, Swedish str., for Saigon.
 2, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 2, Lyoomoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 2, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Hoihao.
 2, Rajaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
 2, Taiwan, British str., for Canton.
 3, Charterhouse, British str., for Moji.
 3, Else, German str., for Iloilo.
 3, Hangsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 3, Hoihao, French str., for Pakhoi.
 3, Kaifong, British str., for Iloilo.
 3, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 3, Mazagon, British str., for Bombay.
 3, Sabine Rickmers, British str., for Koetei.
 4, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Canton.
 4, Guthrie, British str., for Australia.
 4, Jason, British str., for Shanghai.
 4, Konig Albert, German str., for Europe.
 4, Pembrokeshire, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
 4, Tsisang, British str., for Canton.
 5, Glenshiel, British str., for Nagasaki.
 5, Kohsichang, German str., for Bangkok.
 5, Mongkut, German str., for Bangkok.
 5, P. C. Klao, German str., for Bangkok.
 5, Prima, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 5, Prinz R. Luitpold, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
 5, Savoia, German str., for Nagasaki.
 5, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 5, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 6, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihao.
 6, Elsa, German str., for Canton.
 6, Haliotis, German str., for Swatow.
 6, Hangchow, British str., for Canton.
 6, Hongwan I, British str., for Amoy.
 6, Hue, French str., for Kwangchauwan.
 6, Lena, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 6, Ombo, British str., for Tsingtau.
 6, Suisang, British str., for Singapore.
 7, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 7, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 7, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., for K'chinotzu.

PASSENGERS LISTS

ARRIVED.

Per Bengal, for Hongkong, from London, Messrs. Smith, Turner and H. J. Reynolds, Lieuts. C. S. Townsend, A. H. B. M. Addison, H. L. Jones, W. Young and A. Barnby; from Marseilles, Capt. Bayley and Mr. R. Scott; from Bombay, Messrs. W. Vullubhoy and S. Rehntulla; from Colombo, Rev. S. L. Clarke, R. N. and Capt. Hewetson; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Derrick, Sirdar Khan, Messrs. A. A. Remedios and Geo. McBain; for Shanghai, from London, Messrs. C. Haspura and Tate; from Marseilles, Mr. C. S. Atkinson; for Yokohama, from London, Mr. A. Hills; from Marseilles, Messrs. A. Wadman, Rustad and L. Saunders; from Brindisi, Mr. A. W. Bragg.

Per Chusan, for Hongkong, from Shanghai, Mr. E. and Mrs. C. Gilchrist, Messrs. P. J. Buchanan, W. E. Gray, J. G. Gow, Zazersky, A. Bastien, C. Witmuss and Ellis; for London, Mr. J. W. Pearce.

Per Kasuga Maru, for Thursday Island, from Hongkong, Dr. D. J. Tawney; for Brisbane, Mr. R. More; for Sydney, Mrs. H. M. Berry and Mrs. H. Bennecke, Misses Tyson, Thomas, M. Moore, Messrs. J. B. Godkin, H. M. Berry, K. Morita, Chs. J. Patterson and Lloyd Weltner; for Melbourne, Mr. and Mrs. Atkins, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Vail and Miss Aitkins.

Per Tartar, from Vancouver, Mr. G. N. Robinson; from Yokohama, Capt. and Mrs. Harts and child, Messrs. P. R. Wilson and N. B. Hale; from Kobe, Messrs. C. D. Wilkinson and H. N. Looker; from Shanghai, Mr. N. Liebert.

Per Eastern, from Australia, &c., Mr. and Mrs. A. Forbes, Mr. and Mrs. S. A. d'Araojo, Miss and Master d'Araojo, Mesdames D. Lambeth, K. M. Cooney and F. Allen, Misses L. Clothier, G. Kennedy and E. Stockwell Sisters, H. C. d'Conceicao and S. Pimental, Messrs. J. G. Couper, S. J. Perry, G. H. Smithers, R. N. Hatrik, J. Leigh and F. F. Leitan.

Per Konig Albert, from Yokohama, for Hongkong, Major and Mrs. Wynne and infant, Mrs. Schierhorst, Mrs. Kelis, Dr. Otto Stoebel,

Capt. Wollseiffen, Lieut. Kayser, Misses Jones, Harrison and Mer, Messrs. H. B. Bhesania, A. M. Timke, W. H. Fifer, E. J. Commissariat, C. W. Hensler, S. T. David, M. N. Mehta, T. A. Clinoy, A. G. Remedios, J. J. McManu, G. Brethauer and A. Mebyr.

Per Lightning, from Calcutta, &c., Messrs. Muir, Edgar, Fetheringham and Gilmore.

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DEPARTED.

Per Bengal, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mrs. Eyras, Messrs. Rahimatula and G. McBain.

Per Chusan, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Messrs. H. J. Wang and E. Knickrehm; for London, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. S. Matheson and three children, Messrs. G. G. Knight, J. Tabb, T. E. Shorter, P. O'Dea and E. Noy; from Shanghai, for London, Mr. J. W. Pearce.

Per Kumano Maru, for Japan, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Lassetter, Mr. A. B. Lassetter and Master Lassetter, Mr. and Mrs. T. Collier and child, Miss Collier, Mrs. C. A. de Jesus, Mr. and Mrs. F. O. Seaton, Lieut. and Mrs. G. S. Palmer, Mrs. Succur, Mrs. Ferrier, Mrs. and Miss Black, Mr. and Mrs. F. Carol, Mrs. Ota, Mrs. Incuye, Misses Ridgey, Wright, Rockwell, F. Rockwell, Montgomery, Joumon, Brown, Capt. Radcliffe, Russell and Rockwell, Rev. Collick, Lieut. P. Diachtke, Messrs. J. Morton, White, Pincherle, Marnier, McLean, W. Gill, J. F. De Jesus, Murphy, Good, J. N. Kalff, Solomon, G. Matsui, Brown, F. Hynch, May and S. Mizunoma.

Per Nippon Maru, for Shanghai, Messrs. F. de Praneuf, Weber, J. Woods, T. A. Hurley and G. M. Lack; for Kobe, Mr. Mr. C. A. Welch; for Yokohama, Messrs. C. M. Ray, U.S.N., A. Hills, Rustad, L. Saunders and Nakashima; for San Francisco, &c., Mrs. J. W. Worthington, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Derrick, Rev. E. M. Collick, R. F. Rogerson, C. Ingram, H. Cobb, R. D. King, F. A. Lindley, E. Simons, P. V. McCoy and J. J. Bridges.

Per Rosetta Maru, for Manila, Mrs. J. Ventura and four children, Mrs. I. Bargas and child, Mrs. M. M. de Zarza, Mrs. I. Hirano, Mrs. Scudder, Mrs. and Miss Hashida, Mr. and Mrs. Muraoka, Capt. A. S. Conklin, Rev. J. Kennedy, Misses M. Delacruz, M. Barretto, N. Kai, K. Fukuda, K. Yeshima and T. Ramos, Masters A. Luna and N. Ventura, Messrs. R. W. Hanson, G. A. White, F. J. Mitchell, A. G. Greaben, D. Penalose, S. Perry, R. Paterson, B. Havner, R. Scott, Y. Felix, L. Yoingco, N. Toge, J. Yanguya, T. Kusano, S. Omori and John Belger.

Per Loongsang, for Manila, Mrs. S. Wessel, Capt. and Mrs. W. W. Harts, Misses T. Santiago, H. Romero, K. Yoshida, C. Minu and Y. Hayashida, Messrs. F. E. Malloy, Wm. B. Hale, P. N. Welch and H. Koyama.

Per König Albert, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Mr. J. M. Beattie; for Colombo, Mr. A. Hankey; for Aden, Mr. Gold and family; for Genoa, Mrs. A. Shaddenburg, Lieut. Geiger, Messrs. H. W. Slade, G. N. Robinson and P. Christensen; for Southampton, Mr. W. R. Davies; for London, Mrs. Geiger and child, Miss Leite, Messrs. James B. Davidson, Fred. Lawrence and F. B. Wilkinton; for Biemen, Mr. Karl V. Rudolph.

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